

Florida

It's That Time Again
Winter Wings

WILDLIFE

*Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation*

SEPTEMBER 1968

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS



Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

EXQUISITELY BEAUTIFUL
BOTH IN APPEARANCE AND
FLIGHT • BACK, WINGS
AND TAIL GLOSSY GREENISH-
BLACK • HEAD AND UNDER-
PARTS PURE WHITE •
INHABITS CYPRESS SWAMPS,
RIVER FORESTS AND
LAKES AND MARSHES
IN THE VICINITY OF
CYPRESS STANDS
• LENGTH 21"
WINGSPREAD
50"

**SWALLOW-
TAILED
KITE**



VERY RARE IN FLORIDA
• INHABITS PRAIRIES AND
MARSHES • COLORING
AND FLIGHT SIMILAR TO A
SEA GULL • MOSTLY WHITE
WITH BLACK WING PATCHES
• LENGTH 15" • WINGSPREAD 40"



WHITE-TAILED KITE

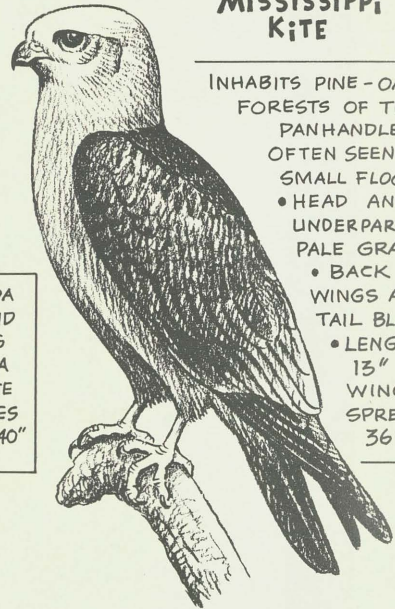
BEAUTIFUL BUT RARE MEMBERS
OF THE HAWK FAMILY....

The KITES

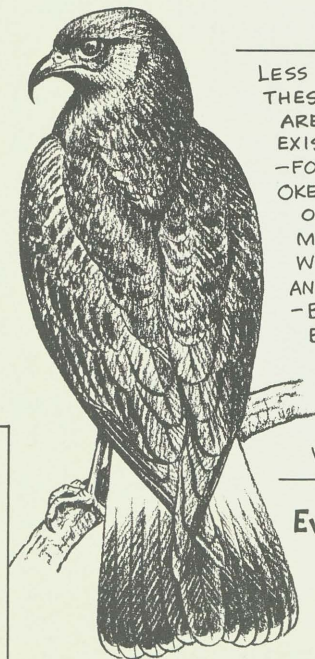
CALLED KITES BECAUSE OF THEIR BUOYANT FLIGHT-
WITH ONLY SLIGHT MOVEMENT OF WINGS & TAIL SUDDENLY
RISING HIGH IN THE SKY AND JUST AS SUDDENLY
GRACEFULLY DIPPING BACK TO EARTH • THEIR FOOD
INCLUDES LARGE INSECTS, SNAKES, LIZARDS, FROGS
AND MICE, EXCEPT THE EVERGLADE KITE WHICH
FEEDS EXCLUSIVELY ON THE LARGE SNAIL- AMPULLARIA

**MISSISSIPPI
KITE**

INHABITS PINE-OAK
FORESTS OF THE
PANHANDLE •
OFTEN SEEN IN
SMALL FLOCKS
• HEAD AND
UNDERPARTS
PALE GRAY
• BACK,
WINGS AND
TAIL BLACK
• LENGTH
13" •
WING-
SPREAD
36"



LESS THAN 20 OF
THESE RARE BIRDS
ARE KNOWN TO
EXIST IN THE U.S.
- FOUND IN THE LAKE
OKEECHOBEE AREA
OF FLORIDA •
MALES - BLACK
WITH RED EYES
AND FEET • FEMALES
- BROWN • WHITE
BAND AT BASE
OF TAIL
IN ALL
PLUMAGES
LENGTH 17" •
WINGSPREAD 45"



**EVERGLADE
KITE**

HAWKS ARE PROTECTED IN FLORIDA
• PLEASE DO NOT SHOOT AT ANY
SOARING, HAWK-LIKE BIRD!

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State of Florida

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The Cover

One of the migratory game birds soon to arrive for the new hunting season, Snipe is one of the more enjoyable speedsters sought by scattergunners. The Snipe's name comes from the German word "snout." See pages 12 and 18.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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The Case Against **HARD** Pesticides

DDT

HEPTACHLOR

LINDANE

ALDRIN

ENDRIN

DIELDRIN

CHLORDANE

MICHIGAN HAS COME to a point in its history when it must completely outlaw the use of certain highly destructive pesticides such as DDT, Dieldrin, Aldrin, Heptachlor, Endrin, Lindane, Chlordane, and other "hard," or persistent chemical compounds used to kill insects.

Michigan must move now to halt their use, in a struggle that can prove to be the most difficult and probably the most important that has ever faced our natural resources. Threats of fire, pestilence, and plague against those resources are as nothing compared to the pervasive and sinister attacks of such chemicals. They have now polluted our environment to the extent that we no longer eat any food or drink any fluid without swallowing at least minute quantities of these chemicals. DDT is found in the Antarctic Ocean, thousands of miles from any area where it has ever been used. It is found in fish life of the deep oceans. It is found inside the eggs of eagles and ospreys and falcons—eggs which do not hatch into birds whose numbers are now in decline. We kill robins, our state symbol, and prevent the birth of bald eagles, our national symbol, with these pesticides. We kill so many robins, in fact, that a news item about the "seventh annual die-off of robins" in one of Michigan's cities is hardly noteworthy, and is relegated to the back page of a local newspaper. Two years ago, a U. S. Public Health Service study showed that the average American has gathered 12 parts per million of DDT into his fatty tissue, as well as .15 of a part per million of Dieldrin. Nursing mothers now impart .08 of a part per million of DDT in human milk given their infants. Frankly, no one knows what 12 parts per million in human fatty

tissue means. But we know it's going to stay there and that DDT in far smaller concentrations has awesome consequences for many small or simple forms of life. DDT is even found in the rain.

We have, in the name of compromise and acceptance, already allowed ourselves to be carried much too far down this hazardous road. We have been beguiled by a malignant belief that things will work out, that better substitutes will be found and used, that American know-how and technology will lead us to the light. We have until recently condoned use of such chemicals even in the Department of Conservation, and we have in the past used them to combat forest insects, park pests, and fish and game problems. We are all sheep in the same flock, and the real fight is not against some distant state or federal bureau, or lone farmer, or crop-dusting pilot. The real fight is against ourselves. Are you, as an urban or suburban householder, willing to pay twenty-five cents a pound for apples where you now pay twenty cents? Will you accept higher prices when costs of crop production rise? Individually and collectively, we enjoy big, luscious, wormless fruits and vegetables available at every market, and we fail to question the individual farmer or rose-grower when crops and flowers are dusted, several times each year.

But we should question them, and we should question ourselves. The weight of evidence against these hard, or persistent chemicals is now so overwhelming that there is no longer any doubt of the need to end their use. Literally hundreds of documented cases tell us of the danger these chemicals pose for wildlife, for soil organisms, for the purity of our water, for all basic elements of the animal food chain. We also have grave reservations about many of the "soft" pesticides—those which are non-persistent, which break down into harmless

compounds in a short time. Some are extremely lethal to wildlife. However, our overwhelming concern is with those chemicals that do not break down readily, which are working insidious changes in our environment and which exert lasting effects on birds, fish, soil organisms, and other elements of the environment.

These chemicals are used to control insect pests, and without question they appear to be highly effective. Generally they are spread as dust or in a fine spray that blankets an entire area. Unfortunately, this blanket keeps slipping off the bed. One study shows that up to half of all DDT spread by airplanes does not settle, but escapes instead into the atmosphere. Such fine particles may then be carried completely around the globe in as little as two weeks, to be deposited anywhere on earth by rains or winds. If not spread by airplane, such chemicals are carried off the land by the runoff of rainwater or melting snow, or by any vagrant breeze. As a result, DDT and other similar chemicals are now found in every major river system of the United States, in all the Great Lakes and in all inland lakes which have been checked, in soil organisms, and in virtually all human and animal life on which studies have been carried out. Saddest of all, DDT, the most persistent of the bunch, has a half-life of 10 to 15 years. If all further use of these chemicals were halted right now, we would still have to live with the effects of our past excesses for more than a generation. In short, we are talking about altering and changing the environment that we will hand over to our children's children, or even to their grandchildren.

To some it may seem strange that a conservationist should express concern over this pesticide problem. Yet the problem is so intimately woven

(Continued on next page)

By **RALPH A. MacMULLAN**, Director
Michigan Department of Conservation
Reprinted from **MICHIGAN CONSERVATION**

About half of insecticides sprayed from airplanes can escape into the atmosphere to be carried around the world and deposited in rain within two weeks. All major basins in U. S. contain Dieldrin, Endrin and DDT, three of the worst pesticides.



(Continued from preceding page)

into the fabric of our environment that eagles' eggs and the contents of a glass of water and the price of apples are all affected simultaneously. By one view, the problem is the direct concern of no one. By any rational review of the facts, however, the problem is paramount to each of us together, and may in the end prove more dangerous to our total environment than any other single threat in history.

The question of danger, therefore, can no longer be entertained. The questions we now must ask are: (A) How much damage already has been done? and (B) How can we stop further use of these chemicals?

To the first question, no immediate answer is possible. We know that the effects of these chemicals continue for a long time after they are re-

RESOLUTION

State of Florida

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission

WHEREAS, non-degradable or "hard" pesticides and detergents are now known to be polluting our environment, and these chemicals are dangerous because they are persistent or "hard" and injurious to many forms of life; and

WHEREAS, these chemicals keep their strength and travel by air and water across great distances to cause serious problems for birds, fish and animals and because they cover such an enormous territory, these chemicals present a threat to the wildlife of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the weight of damaging evidence against these chemicals is overwhelming and hundreds of documented cases tell of the danger hard and persistent pesticides pose for wildlife, for soil organisms, for the purity of our water, for all basic elements of the animal food chain; and

WHEREAS, hard and persistent chemicals may alter and change not only the environment of today but continue to alter and change the environment that we will hand over to our children's children, or even to their grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, there are other pesticides and detergents that may substitute and are known to break down into harmless compounds much more rapidly in the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, in a duly constituted and assembled meeting at Ocala, Florida, on this 12th day of July, A.D. 1968, do resolve as follows:

1. That the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will from this date forward abstain from the use of any hard or persistent chemical, pesticide or detergent and encourage others to likewise abstain.

2. That we will in the interest of the wildlife and the people of Florida, seek appropriate legislation against these chemicals.

3. That we will to the best of our ability encourage the use of effective non-persistent substitutes and biological controls in place of the hard pesticides and detergents.

4. That we will initiate a program to inform and educate the people of Florida as to the dangers of these persistent harmful chemicals and to the best of our ability encourage such informed and educated public to speak out against their use for any purpose.

DONE AND RESOLVED at Ocala, Florida, this 12th day of July, A.D. 1968.

Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission

/s/ W. B. Copeland

/s/ Harold Ashley

/s/ William M. Blake

/s/ Richard H. Schulz

/s/ W. T. McBroom

leased. We know that lower forms of life are more easily affected than higher, more complex forms of life. We are beginning to understand the consequences of "biological magnification," which operates with these chemicals. In biological magnification, small plant and animal forms gather quantities of these chemicals into themselves. Even very minute quantities suspended in water are collected or "magnified" in this way. When eaten by larger creatures, the concentrations contained in the lower forms of life enter the larger creatures. When these animal forms are in turn consumed by even larger creatures, the chemical is further concentrated. Thus, a frog eats dozens of insects that carry particles of this matter. Many such frogs are in turn eaten by pike or bass, and many such fish—either alive or dead—may in turn be eaten by an osprey or eagle. The chemical dangers that faced the insects, frogs and fish are now all concentrated in the bird. An example of this occurred in an attempt to rid Clear Lake in California of nuisance midges. A chemical called DDD was applied to Clear Lake to a level of .02 of one part per million parts of water. That is equal to a few drops of the material in a railroad tank car full of water. Thirteen months later, analyses showed the residue levels were 10 parts per million in plankton, 903 parts per million in the fat of plankton-eating fish,

Scientists strongly suspect DDT creating the osprey and eagle recent population decline. Songbirds are also in deep trouble.

Photo By Jim Reed



2,690 parts per million in the fat of carnivorous fish, and 2,134 parts per million in the fat of fish-eating birds, most of which had died. This represents a 100,000-fold increase in fish-eating birds over levels in lake water.

There is strong circumstantial evidence that this sort of magnification is the single prime reason for the alarming decline of bald eagles—as well as many other species of predatory birds—in recent years. How long such declines will continue or how many species of wildlife will be affected can only be matters of conjecture.

The more important question to ask at this time is how to stop further use of these chemicals.

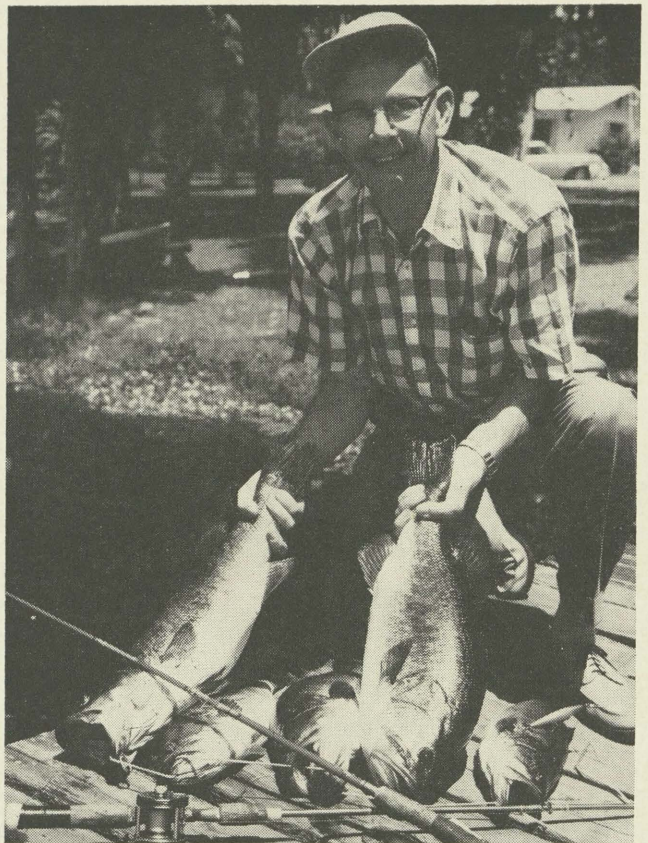
Actually, there are now numerous “soft” chemicals which can be used to control insect pests, but which lose their strength after a relatively short period of time. Some are now in wide use and have proved their effectiveness in solving a broad spectrum of insect problems. Some people have voluntarily turned to them after viewing the consequences of DDT, Dieldrin, and the other hard chemicals. However, some soft chemicals are extremely dangerous to handle and require more frequent application to accomplish the same ends. Also, many are more expensive, hence less commonly available.

To ask a farmer to abandon voluntarily the use of hard chemicals, where they are permitted, is asking him to place himself at a disadvantage in the marketplace. Only through wide-ranging agreement among agriculturists, or by sanctions against those who continue to use hard chemicals can a voluntary program work effectively. It is perhaps too much to expect that this can happen, given the conditions of the free marketplace.

A seemingly simple alternative is to pass a state law preventing all further sale or use of specific chemicals such as DDT in Michigan. While an ideal solution from the standpoint of conservation, this could place some Michigan farmers at a disadvantage to those outstate farmers whose crops are shipped into Michigan.

Perhaps a federal law could be passed, preventing interstate commerce in these chemicals. For example, DDT is produced in plants in only six states, and a federal law would essentially bottle up production in those states. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin recently introduced such legislation into Congress, but it has yet to see daylight past the doors of the committee room. If such legislation were passed at the federal level, it would give agriculturists across the nation a more even chance to absorb the restriction.

In the meantime, there is much that can be done here in Michigan to reduce the use of hard pesticides. Recently, the Governor asked the directors of the Departments of Agriculture and Conservation to prepare a statewide policy for eventual



State News Bureau Photo

All forms of wildlife and fish are being slowly poisoned by pesticides. DDT residues have now been discovered in penguins, even—and the fight to halt its spread has just begun. Time may run out for many birdlife species, especially fish-eaters.

elimination of the use of hard pesticides for adoption by these and other agencies within the state. Meetings are being held now to draft such a policy. The Department of Conservation, meantime, has halted all use of hard chemicals for all Department programs and projects, and we have issued binding orders that they are not to be used on any projects in the future. We expect to continue to use soft chemicals for certain projects, but the hard group has been banned.

Individual communities throughout the state also can contribute their share to the effort by refraining from use of DDT in control of Dutch elm disease and mosquitoes. Actually, there are numerous examples of Dutch elm disease programs that have produced satisfactory results with Methoxychlor.

Sportmen's groups, civic organizations, women's clubs, and individuals—everybody, in fact—must speak out against hard pesticides if we are to return our environment to a more normal condition. As a beginning, we can all stop the use of such chemicals on home flower and vegetable gardens, and in local mosquito control.

For our part this Department is, as of now, adopting the following five-point action program
(Continued on next page)

aimed at ending all further use of these chemicals in Michigan:

1. Through such messages as this one, we will let it be known that we are going to battle right down the line to protect our environment against hard pesticides by making people aware of the problem's seriousness and by urging them to exert their rights and responsibilities as citizens to take corrective steps.

2. We will, in the interest of the people of Michigan, seek appropriate legislation against hard pesticides. Right now, for instance, there really is no reason why another ounce of DDT should be applied anywhere in this state. Effective non-persistent substitutes are available.

3. We will initiate this program NOW! In fact, we have already begun. Our stand against the application of Dieldrin in Berrien County in recent weeks established our position.

4. We will encourage the use of alternative safe chemical and biological controls in place of hard pesticides—chemicals such as Malathion and Methoxychlor, biologicals such as the various natural enemies of harmful insects. We fully realize that these alternatives may be more expensive and less convenient. Their use undoubtedly will temporarily disrupt segments of the agricultural community and others to whom pest control is vital. But we believe this country has the technological capacity to lick these problems without continuing the use of dangerous hard pesticides.

5. We will make it clear to the public that, as consumers, they will have to pay for a chemically clean environment. We may have to ante up a penny or two more per pound for apples or potatoes or cabbage to meet the cost of more expensive but safer controls. The price, however, will be worth it.

For examples of problems pesticides are causing, drawn from the scientific record, consider these:

DDT residues were shown to be completely distributed through food chains in the Lake Michigan ecosystem near Green Bay, Wisconsin. Residues were found in shallow and deep water mud samples, small crustaceans, alewives, whitefish, chubs, oldsquaw ducks, and ring-billed and herring gulls (Keith, University of Wisconsin, 1966).

Both DDT and Dieldrin have been shown to pass from mother to offspring through the placenta in mice (Backstron et al., Royal Veterinary College, Stockholm, 1965), while DDT also passes through the placenta in dogs (Finnegan et al., 1949), rabbits (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1963), and man (Denes, 1962).

The widespread destruction by DDT of salmon runs in the rivers and streams of New Brunswick is probably the best documented in the whole library of unintended "side effects" published in scientific literature (Elson, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, 1967).



Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

Both DDT and Dieldrin have been shown to pass from mother to offspring through the placenta in mice. DDT also passes to the dog, rabbit and human fetuses in this way. Even the human mother's milk now contains traces of the deadly DDT.

DDT was applied to Montana forests at $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per acre. Residues were present in eggs and young grouse 1 year after spraying, and at 2 years after spraying, residues still exceed pre-spray levels. Residues in grouse exceeded tolerance levels set for meats by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Mussehl & Finley, 1967).

In order of frequency of occurrence, Dieldrin, Endrin, DDT and DDE were found in all major river basins in the United States (Weaver et al., U.S. Public Health Service, 1965).

The percentage of immature birds in the U.S. bald eagle population in 1961, 1962 and 1963 was 26.5%, 23.7% and 21.6%, respectively. Nesting failure has been especially severe around Lake Michigan (Sprunt & Ligas, National Audubon Society, 1967; Postupalsky, 1967).

Until the biological effects of a compound known to have some toxic properties have been established through adequate research, that compound must be assumed to be potentially dangerous. Empirical research and experience are teaching us, sometimes the hard way, the folly of assuming that lack of evidence is the same as negative evidence (Warner, Peterson & Bordman, Foundation for Environmental Biology, University of California at Berkeley, 1966). ●

Angling Angles

FISHING

there is a variety of jiggerbob fishing styles and artificial lures that provide angling fun—and success—for both fresh and salt water fish

By CHARLES WATERMAN



BEAUTIES OF NATURE become very boring in print. Serious fishermen don't actually ignore them but usually take them for granted, especially in familiar surroundings. Most of their enjoyment could be termed subconscious, as after a few years of fishing a given lake or river a fisherman is unlikely to pick out specific objects for admiration, accepting the whole works as part of his outdoor enjoyment.

It's different when he wanders off to different country where he's likely to extoll the beautiful scenery. A friend of mine went fishing in the mountains where he waxed eloquent about the brilliant hardwoods, the sparkling snows and the great pine forests. Then back in Florida he was looking at a photo made near the southwest coast where all was mangroves, many of them twisted and dead, with a backdrop of the unbelievable thunderheads we get in summertime.

"Now, how's that for scenery?" he laughed apologetically. He's been in the mangrove swamps so much that he doesn't even realize he thinks it's beautiful there, and he undoubtedly doesn't know he goes fishing as much for the scenery as for the fish. A mountaineer might be just as impressed with the swamp as my friend was with the mountains, which is the way it should be.

Being a late riser whenever possible (sure indication I'm poorly fitted for anglership) I seldom actually look right at a sunrise, but I'm quite aware

the ones over the back fence are as good as any. On fishing trips far from home I'm often up long before daylight, something I seldom manage in my native diggings, and every time I encounter sunup with its accompaniment of bird and animal activity plus the stirring combination of mists, dawn colors and the overall quiet that enables me to pick out individual sounds of nature, I always promise that for the rest of my life I'm going to get up early. This resolve doesn't last long, of course.

Those who prefer to do their sleeping on the front end of the night are pretty lucky but most of us don't take in many sunrises. It's a good thing that fishing forces us to do it once in a while.

Unfortunately some retired people have sold out, packed up and moved to a new state because of the wonders of nature they saw on a visit, never realizing they have just as good a show at home. It is also very true that everyone fishes a lot harder on a long trip than when splashing around near his home town. If you worked as hard on the local fish as you do on the ones you travel after you might be suprised at the results.

THERMAL POLLUTION is a new phrase to most conservationists and they're likely to overwork it just a little. It simply means that a body of water is warmed excessively by industrial use.

In other words, an industrial plant will use a quantity of water for cooling machinery and then discharge the water after it's used. Having absorbed heat from the plant the water discharged will be somewhat warmer than when it was taken in. Then, even though the water may be pure enough for drinking it can have two adverse effects on the fishing.

Most obviously it can be so warm that fish can't live in it or reproduce in it. Less dramatically, it can heat the stream to a point where unusual water growths including harmful algae or trash fish can take over from more valued game species.

But national discussion of the matter has overly excited some conservationists who conclude *any*

(Continued on next page)



A Floridian who visited the mountains for some summer fishing called this a "mangrove mudhole" on his return, but many folks feel this is prettiest scenery on earth.

(Continued from preceding page)

warming of a stream is harmful. Now the original discussion was largely apprehension, specifically considering atomic energy plants which might ruin watercourses by heavy discharges of heated water. Most plants using moderate quantities of water do not warm it enough to cause any harm.

A couple of power plants I know of warm river water enough that bass and panfish cluster downstream from them during cold weather to take advantage of the slight warming from the plant discharge. However, come summer, the warming is so slight that slightly shallower water upstream will actually have higher temperature than the freshly discharged water just below the plant.

I'm not belittling the hazards of thermal pollution; simply saying that I don't know of any plant in Florida that is currently damaging in that way. That doesn't mean harmful plants might not appear some time or even very soon.

Fish are roughly classed as "warm" or "cold" water fishes with no specific temperature as the dividing line where one thrives and the other dies. The trouts are cold water fishes. Ours are warm water fishes, and though they could be destroyed by too much heat, slight thermal pollution is more likely to be dangerous to cold water fishes.

This explanation has been vague but so are the problems.

THE OTHER NIGHT I searched diligently for a certain kind of streamer fly to be used on some snook said to be tearing it up in a canal. Only a white one would work, they said.

I overturned the whole box of old reliables and oddball follies to find a few plain white streamers of just the right length and for once it seemed I was lucky because I came on a little box full of exactly what I thought I wanted.

As they say, came the dawn and I was waiting for daylight while snook strikes popped in the gloom and when the sky got pink I was already hanging my streamers in unseen wads of sawgrass.

But when the sun came up I found I didn't have a single white streamer in my box. Seems I had hunted for white streamers by a yellow light back at camp. Yellow bulbs, a good gimmick for the discouragement of insects, make yellow flies look just as white as white flies.

A FISH THAT'S ALREADY chasing something is especially vulnerable to any kind of lure—not just because he's hungry but because all of his rather elemental grabbing instincts are turned on full strength—all striking systems "go."

Getting to him while he's in the mood is the key to school bass fishing and if you occasionally see a lone fish chasing bait, the sooner you can get something to him the more likely you are to connect.



There is nothing delicate about use of jiggerbobbing outfit once a fish strikes. An outfit like this will work for a variety of fresh and salt water species.

Ten seconds after he's struck something, chances are he's cooled down and may be uncatchable.

If you're nosing along a shoreline and see a fish striking regularly you may win the marbles by just sitting and watching his spot; then when he strikes again try to put something on him immediately. I've done this many times. I've also gotten excited and fired my lure ten feet up on the bank at the big moment.

LAUNCHING A BOAT near a highway bridge the other morning, I noticed my helper wasn't paying much attention to the operation, being sighted in on something going on under the bridge.

"Better watch this," he said. "Those guys have done this before!"

He was watching a pair of expert jiggerbobbbers bass fishing the concrete pilings and they caught what looked like a 4-pound bass just as I sat down to look.

Jiggerbobbing, or whatever you want to call it (it has dozens of fanciful names), is a true skill operation, and although it has been going on almost as long as the bass have, modern outboard motors have made it a lot easier. A silent little ticker on the stern of a jiggerbobbing boat can save a lot of rowing or paddling.

Of course jiggerbobbing is simply the use of a long cane pole with a lure attached to a short piece of line just a few inches long. As the boat moves the fisherman keeps the lure in the water and moving constantly along the edges of any obstruction that might harbor a bass. Most good jiggers actually keep the tip of the pole in the water, making an attractive gurgle and sputter as well as breaking the surface so that the fish can't see the boat, pole

or fisherman. The pole should be limber enough to keep flopping without much exertion from the operator's end—least understood phase of the operation.

Watching the experts the other morning I noticed the man with the pole sat with his forearms resting on his knee so that he kept the tip dancing with only slight wrist action.

Some versions of jiggerbobbing have been advertised as miracle methods of catching fish. It's best known as a bass system but will work with snook and other gamefish that stay close to shorelines or obstacles, giving you a definite zone to fish over. A somewhat cruder form is the "figure-eighting" or "stirring" done from bridges and docks.

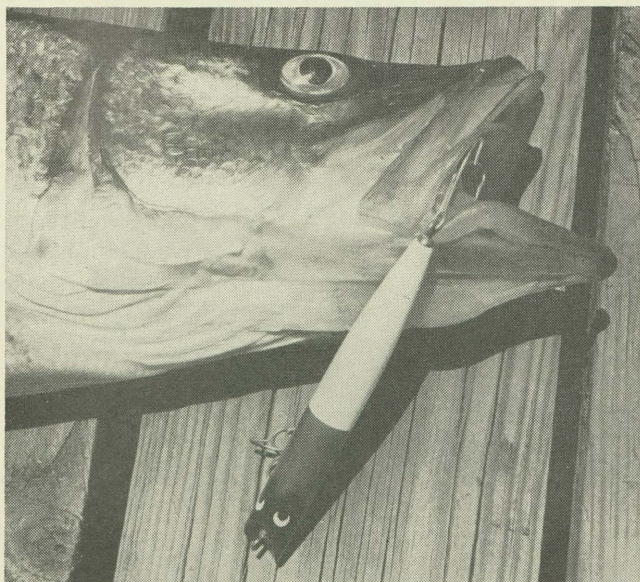
One successful operator I know uses a foot-controlled electric motor and goes it alone but most outfits work better with two people on the job; one to manage the pole and one to run the boat. A small quiet outboard motor is a lot less work than oars or paddle.

When you try it you'll probably be greatly surprised at the amount of exertion it takes to work the pole before you learn the easy ways of doing it. A pole with a stiff tip is a lot more effort than one with a tip flexible enough to spring along and flick just the right amount of water. My first effort was with a pole that was too stiff and I had sore arms in an hour.

This business is related to simply working an artificial lure with a short line on a pole, but true jiggerbobbing employs the pole tip as part of the attraction.

A wide variety of homemade and commercial lures have been successful. One popular attraction is the Mirrorlure.

Lou Eppinger School Striper lure is intended for salt water fishing but will work on black bass too, and is of a weight convenient for heavy fresh water spinning or average plug-casting tackle. Lou Eppinger, long noted for the Dardevle spoons, has recently branched into a plug-making business.



The Lou J. Eppinger Company, which is known best for its spoons, has introduced a bunch of plugs aimed at the salt water market. One that looks especially good for Floridians is the School Striper lure. That one was made with striped bass in mind, but is very good for a variety of salt water fish and good-size fresh water bass for that matter. The nose is scooped out similar to the South Bend Bass Oreno but the profile is slimmer. This one casts well and can be worked on the surface but dives promptly on the retrieve.

The Dardevle spoon is one of the most imitated of all lures and copies can be had at a fraction of the cost of the real thing. The true Dardevle is generally better built than its imitators and has a highly durable finish. The action can be imitated pretty successfully, however.

Of interest to weedy water fishermen is a weedless Dardevle that will work very nicely with porkrind.

BARBLESS HOOKS were quite the thing 40 or 50 years ago but seem to have faded from the scene. Back then they were designed for the release of fish with a minimum of damage and Gene Pope, a veteran Florida fisherman, was reminding me of them the other day. Mr. Pope, whose home is in Illinois, was talking of some of the expedients used in altering barbed hooks to make releases simple.

The original barbless hook was built with a sharp bend or hump a short distance from the point, located about where the back of the barb appears on conventional hooks. The bend helped somewhat to keep the hook from slipping out but made it easy for the angler to release the catch.

I don't know if barbless hooks can be bought anywhere today. Anyhow, they never were popular except with real eager beaver conservationists.

Few fishermen want to take the barbs off all their hooks but occasionally the fishing gets good enough that unhooking and releasing becomes a problem. I'm not concerned about the effort required in working a barb out of a fish but the damage done kills a lot of righteously released specimens.

The barb can be changed in several ways or it can be filed off completely. Most fishermen wanting it toned down a bit simply bend it over with pliers. You can file it slightly and make it much easier to unstick from the victim.

A barbless hook or even one with a slightly squashed barb comes out easily on a slack line, and any fish that jumps and shakes is likely to get rid of it, especially if there's some weight to a single-hooked lure such as a jig.

Theoretically, no hook will come out if the line remains tight but most of us give slack occasionally, often without knowing it. I doubt if manufacture of barbless hooks will ever make anyone rich. ●

WINTER WINGS

By GENE SMITH

SOMEbody SAID, "Variety is the spice of life." We'll buy that because it also applies to *outdoor* life. Take, for example, the hunting angle, which is prominent in most of our thoughts this time of year. Now here is some real variety!

Oh, there are a handful of Florida sportsmen of the hunting breed to whom one, maybe two game species are all that matter. On the other hand, there are just scads of us who delight in at least *hunting*, if not always *bagging*, every single game bird and animal known to us, plus all the varmints available to us without closed season. (Some wives and mothers will never fully understand this facet of the male psyche.)

If you're one of the powderburning brotherhood who doesn't like to miss out on a single thing, there are two little migratory game birds that can add greatly to your enjoyment afield this winter. Maybe you already know about them; maybe not. If not, be advised they'll both test your skill. They have peculiar ways and, while related and having many family similarities, they are uniquely different—and found in altogether different situations.

We'd like you to meet the snipe, a sort of feathered Roger Miller, a vagabond, a will-o-the-wisp, a restless spirit, here today and gone tomorrow, found throughout Florida. This bird is fond of wide open spaces—spongy prairies and pastures; marshes and lake shores.

Also meet the woodcock, the one we call the Howard Hughes of the game bird world, a jaunty, oddly handsome, mysterious bird; swift, secretive and unusually hard to see. Found only in north Florida, the woodcock is strictly a creature of shaded hardwood forest floors, leafy thickets and alluvial river bottomlands.

A friend of mine introduced me to snipe hunting—the adult version—several seasons back. He called one evening and matter-of-factly asked if I'd ever been snipe hunting. I half smiled into the 'phone as my thoughts arrowed back twenty-five years or so to the night I was left holding a burlap bag in a gully deep in the woods while the older boys took *my* flashlight and went off into the darkness to "run a snipe into the sack," leaving me nervously listening to a screech owl for the better part of an hour.

"Well," I mused, "it's been a long time since I was invited, but thanks just the same. I'll pass."

"No, no," said my pal, obviously reading my

thoughts, "I mean *real* snipe hunting—with a shotgun—in daytime."

That was different. I accepted the offer and we met at sunup the next morning and headed for a spot he said he knew was attracting a good many of the skinny-legged little birds. It turned out to be a big, boggy lake with a wide area of bottom exposed due to subnormal rainfall that year.

When we got out of the car I slammed the door and two birds got up not more than ten feet away and whirled out across the flats, dipping and twisting in hasty retreat to the far shore.

"Man, look at that," said Ern, "I knew they'd be here. Been watchin' this place for over a month."

We slipped into our shell vests and started out into the low grass that bordered the lake, immediately noticing the ample signs of snipe—borings in the soft earth where they had probed for worms.

Ern was sporting a new 20-gauge double and I was hefting my one and only, a 12-gauge auto-loader. Both of us were shooting number 9 shot in regular field loads, which give plenty of punch for taking the fragile snipe. (Shot sizes from number 7½ to 12's are all good.)

Before we'd moved three car lengths a bird vaulted into the air and Ern, as smoothly as a well-oiled mechanical man, raised his gun, pointed quickly and pulled down on the hapless fowl. It crumpled right on cue and pitched earthward.

"That looked easy," I thought. "This is going to be fun."

Well, as it turned out I was right only on the last part. Snipe shooting is first class fun but it is far from easy. I learned the first time out that this is a tricky bird to hit.

After we'd picked up Ern's downed bird we moved on and I practically stepped on another snipe before he blasted off screaming "escape, escape," nearly making me forget what I was there for. I hadn't even gotten my safety off before that bird was moving out of gun range. With that I held my smokepole in a little more readiness, determined not to let it happen again. And I didn't. But the next bird we encountered showed me still another side of the snipe—the hidden side.

We were moving out of the concealing grass into a fairly open part of the flat when Ern stopped short.

"There's you one," he whispered.

"Where?" I asked.

"Right there," came the almost impatient reply, with a directional nod of the head.

"I still don't see him," I admitted, half doubting that *he* did.

"Look just beyond that tussock. He's broadside to us, facing left," rasped ol' eagle-eye, obviously skeptical of my visual acuity.

"Well, I'll be durned, Ern," I murmured finally. "He's sittin' right out in the open. *I thought he was hid!*"

That's how it goes when you look for snipe, even after they're down. They're so well camouflaged they sometimes defy detection. (And the same goes for the woodcock, if not more so.)

Four or five steps in the immobile bird's direction finally sent him skyward. With that much warning I was able to put him down with no trouble.

That was my first snipe. It was the beginning of a most enjoyable acquaintance with—and a lot of respect for—the little speedster. Not only have I anticipated his annual visits for several shooting seasons now, I have learned a good deal about his habits, his history as an American game bird and his current status as a valuable and increasingly welcomed bonus for the Florida wingshooter. Some of what I ran across surprised me.

His full name is Common snipe, or, if you prefer, Wilson's snipe—named for "the first American ornithologist," Alexander Wilson (1766-1813), the man who described in scientific literature the slight characteristics of this bird which separate it from Old World varieties. Of course, the bird has other names, too, including jacksnipe, bogsnipe, grass snipe and American snipe. And be sure not to forget his Latin handle, *Capella gallinago*!

All snipe get around. They are found, at one season or another, in nearly every part of the nation.

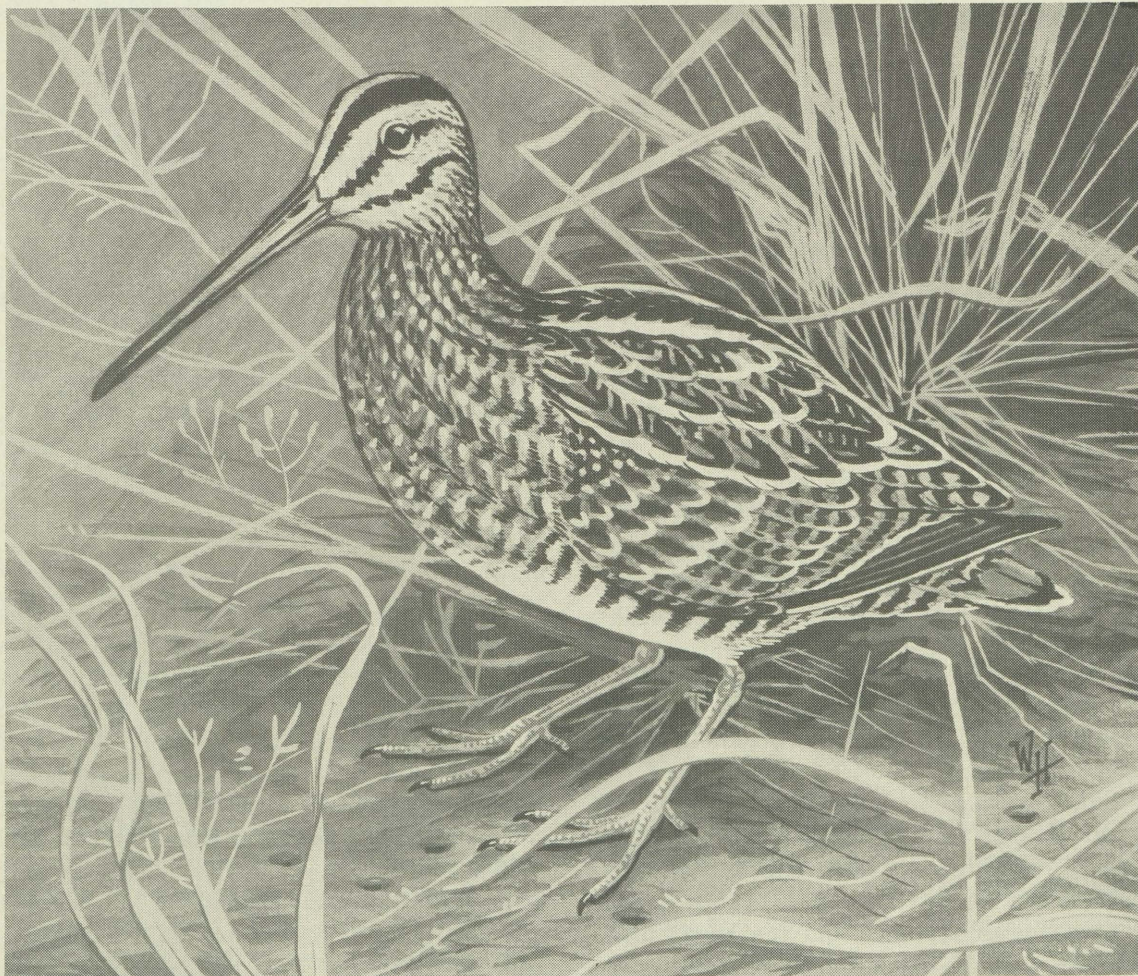
Early literature indicates that snipe were extremely abundant at one time but by the 1920's had been drastically reduced in numbers by over-shooting. (Sad to say, this is a familiar pattern in the annals of the white man's history in North America.)

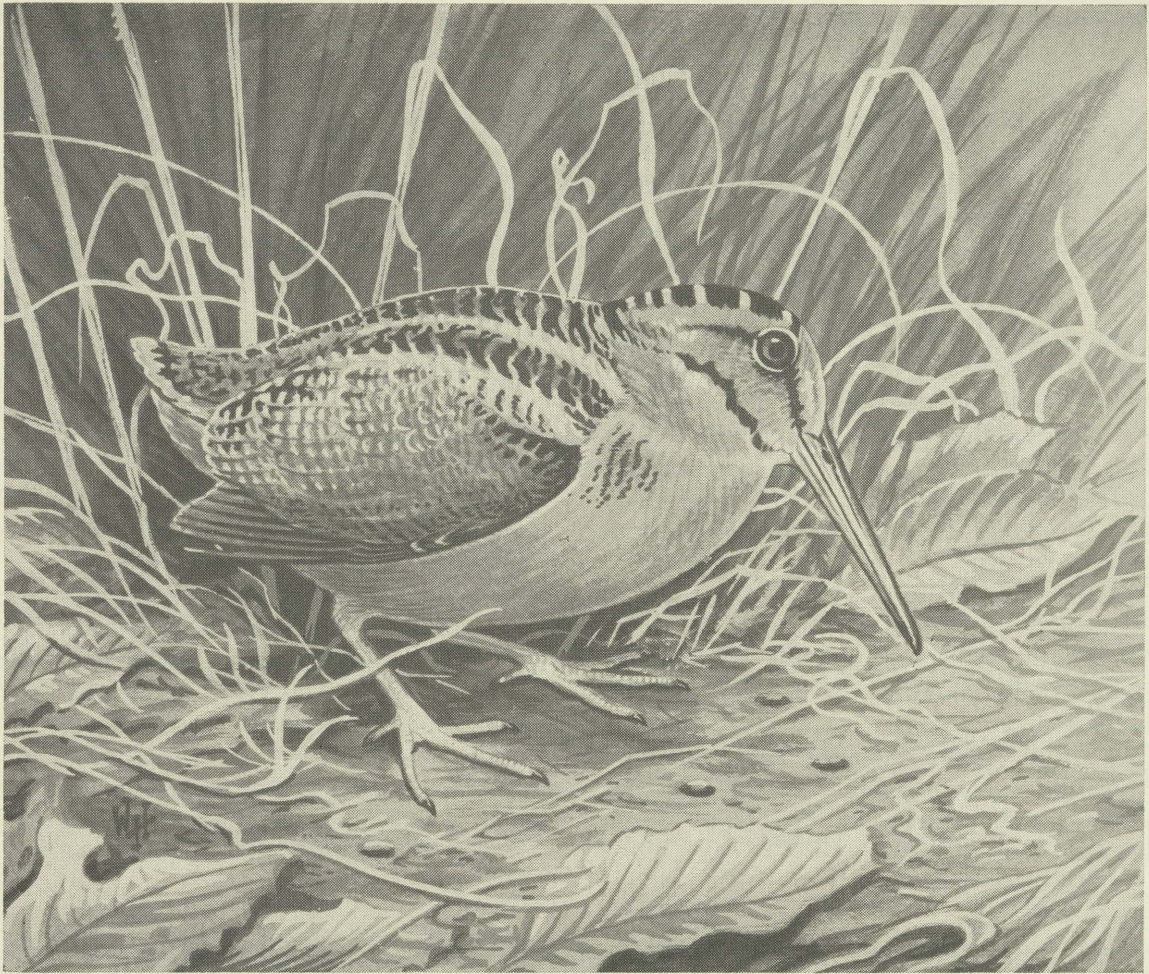
A chilling account of such unbridled destruction of a species is included in a treatise by Arthur Cleveland Bent, *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds*, Bulletin 142, published in 1927 by Smithsonian Institution:

"Snipe must have been exceedingly abundant 50 or 60 years ago, as the oft-quoted achievements of James J. Pringle (1899) will illustrate. He was not
(Continued on next page)

Common Snipe

Drawing By Wallace Hughes





Woodcock

Drawing By Wallace Hughes

(Continued from preceding page)

a market hunter but a gentleman (?), sportsman, who shot for the fun of it and gave the birds away to his friends. His excuses for excessive slaughter and his apologies for not killing more are interesting; he writes:

"The birds being such great migrants, and only in the country for a short time, I had no mercy on them and killed all I could, for the snipe once missed might never be seen again.

"I shot with only one gun at a time; had no loader, but loaded my gun myself; had I shot with two guns and had a loader I would, of course, have killed a great many more birds, but in those days and in those parts it was impossible to get a man that could be trusted to load."

"During the 20 years from 1867 to 1887 he shot, on his favorite hunting grounds in Louisiana, 69,087 snipe and a total of 71,859 of all game birds."

Another "gentleman," a noted trap shooter of the day named Bogardus, killed 340 snipe in a single day in Illinois, "and seldom got less than 150 on good days," according to Bent. Imagine all the shooters across the continent, market, "gentleman," and other, who never made it into the books and it is easy to see why the snipe and other game bird

populations decreased. The birds were under siege in some part of the country at every season of the year!

Enforcement of hunting regulations and education of the people did finally curtail the slaughter by man but then even the weather turned against snipe and woodcock. Hard freezes deep in Dixie in the winter of 1941-42 took an awful toll of these birds, unable to probe for food. The season was closed indefinitely while the surviving flocks were given a chance to replenish their kinds. Slowly, the hardy little migrants did make a comeback. It took them eleven years to do it. Snipe and woodcock hunting became all but forgotten sports.

When snipe and woodcock seasons reopened in Florida for the 1953-54 season there were sensible regulations governing their taking. There were only 15 days for snipe hunting and a daily bag limit of eight birds per hunter. Woodcock were open to hunting 40 days but the daily bag limit was four. Ten years later the daily limit on woodcock was upped one and that's how it stands for 1968-69—eight snipe and five woodcock daily, with possession limits of 16 and 10, respectively. But there will be 50 continuous days for taking snipe and 65 for woodcock in the upcoming season.

Since 1953 the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has cooperated with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which regulates the taking of all migratory game birds, on their annual winter snipe census. The annual counts are made in designated portions of the state. This work, and information from banding studies done by game biologists in Florida and other cooperating states, has helped the Service keep tabs on the year-to-year status of these birds, said once to have been more popular with American hunters than any game birds except bobwhite quail and, possibly, ruffed grouse.

Thanks to proper management, chiefly through a regulated harvest, another generation of Americans has gradually re-discovered the fine sporting qualities of snipe and woodcock. Under current hunting restrictions—and because hunters have learned the fallacy of cutting into the breeders—there is no cause to fear that these fine birds will ever again be endangered from overkill. (Insecticides and wetland drainage may knock 'em for a loop—but that's another story.)

Snipe begin to arrive in the Sunshine State and the other Gulf Coast states as early as September and remain in the warm climes until April or mid-May, when they filter back toward the nesting grounds of the northern United States and Canada.

They love low, moist meadows and prairies. Wet pastures are among their favorite haunts, especially if dotted with shallow water holes and ponds. Such areas afford easy digging—actually probing—for earthworms, cutworms, leeches, grubs and various other insects and larvae, and they usually harbor plenty of grasshoppers, also a favorite food item.

It is because of their swift, erratic flight that they are so hard to hit. As we found out, they can fluster you by holding until you're right on top of them and make you miss many a shot because they zig just when you think they're going to zag for sure.

An easy bird to hunt, all you have to do is find a big expanse of spongy wetlands—and that's no big order in Florida—and walk it out. On windy days snipe are wild and restless and may flush a little further out. When it's calm they will feed at all times of the day and usually hold. You'll never find them in flocks of more than four or five birds, or, at least, I never have. They are not as gregarious as many other birds.

Other than what one looks like, about the only thing you need to know in order to be a successful snipe hunter is how to handle a scattergun.

Because we've been talking about snipe and woodcock, and because their histories have run up and down together, don't confuse the two birds. Remember, we said earlier they are found in entirely different types of habitat. And although their physical appearance—long bills, short tails, dumpy bodies—and behavior are somewhat similar, don't

forget that there are differences, too. Prominent among them is the fact that snipe, although they often move from place to place by night, feed in the daytime. The woodcock, on the other hand, is almost exclusively a nocturnal feeder, preferring to rest in the daylight hours, sitting motionless most of the day on the forest floor. Their woodsy brown protective coloration is just about as perfect as Nature ever designed.

The woodcock is widely known, but not intimately known. He is a bit of a mystery still—even to biologists. He is a recluse. His retiring habits are not conducive to intimate acquaintanceship with the human kind. But even so, the woodcock is apt to turn up in some most unexpected places. He may live almost in our midst unnoticed. If one is observant he can easily see a woodcock in a wooded residential area, particularly if there is a boggy thicket or lake shore in the neighborhood. About dusky dark they move about.

This bird is partial to stream beds and rich bottomlands; scrubby hollows overgrown with willows; and forested hillsides overlooking lakes, bogs or spring-fed inland marshes. Earthworms are its mainstay.

Woodcock hunters, especially those in northern states, are said to be quite secretive about traveling to and from their favorite woodcock covers. They search out good areas to hunt and are careful not to spread the word too far. This indicates just how much they esteem this sawed-off little fellow, called "timberdoodle" by many.

Every account of a woodcock hunt includes an admonition to shoot this bird just as soon after he breaks as possible—because of his fantastic rate of acceleration once he levels off. If ever there was a game bird that requires expert snap shooting, this is it. And a good dog is invaluable if one is to enjoy woodcock shooting to its fullest. They can be hunted simply by walking them up—but you gotta be quick on the trigger. This bird is a broad-winged, powerful aerialist and can twist and turn through the tall timber with utterly amazing dexterity and speed.

Although these are truly migratory birds, usually arriving in Florida just after the first northern freezes and returning to the nesting areas on the heels of the spring thaws, a few are year-round residents and nest in our state.

Once, in Bay County, I was fortunate enough to have seen a mother woodcock (don't know why they aren't called *woodhens*, but they're not) and four young. They crossed a grade road ahead of my car and I first thought they were quail. The long bill caught my eye when I got closer, though, and I realized I was seeing a pretty rare sight.

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The mother put on the best "broken wing" act I have ever seen, almost sure to draw attention away from the young birds if one is unfamiliar with the ruse. But I was more interested in examining a woodcock chick. The trouble was, I couldn't find one and I knew they were right under my feet—somewhere. So well were they hidden in the oak leaves I had to get down on my hands and knees and begin slowly inspecting and shuffling every leaf. Finally one little fellow moved, flapping his stubby wings vigorously. I picked him up and looked him over while mamma watched my every move from about 20 yards away, chattering quietly, almost like a clucking hen, to which the chick in my hand responded with a "peep," the others, wherever they were, remaining absolutely quiet.

After bemoaning the fact that I hadn't brought my camera along I eased the chick back into the leaves and carefully retraced my path to the car. I didn't see the mother bird again but I know she was glad to see me leave.

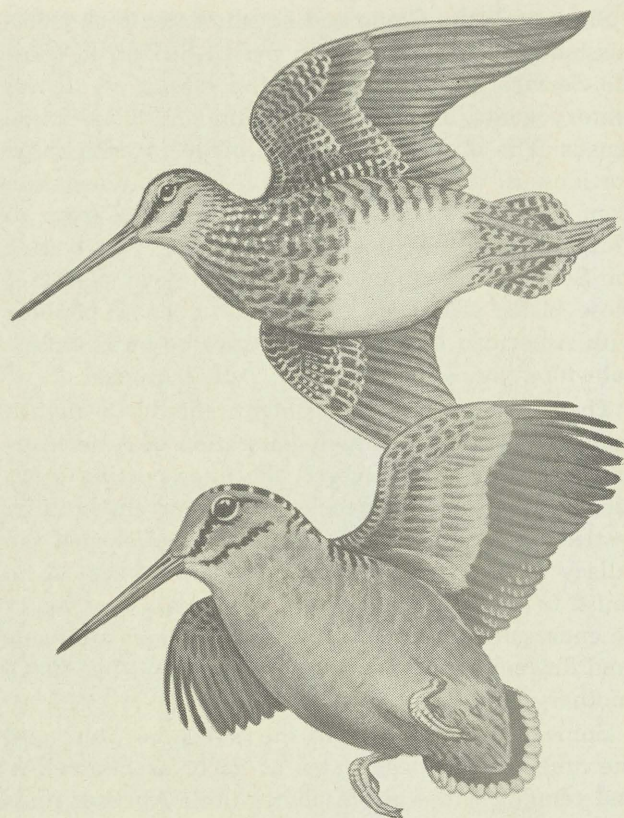
I noted that the young of the woodcock appear to be far more feeble and slow of foot than baby quail. For this reason, possibly, the mother woodcock seems more protective, more willing to sacrifice herself to save her young, than the mother quail. (Audubon once reported having seen a woodcock hen lie down in the middle of a road *as if dead* because her brood had been discovered!)

They may be funny looking, with their long bills, big eyes, short legs and stubby tails, but they are devoted parents—and superb game birds, in the field and on the plate. In taste they compare with quail and dove, which is a way of saying they're "tops."

We have no figures on how many hunters in north Florida are taking advantage of the woodcock's annual migrations, but the 1966-67 mail survey, conducted by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to determine hunter success in Florida, revealed that snipe hunting is quite high on the popularity list of shotgunners all over the state. A total of well over 200,000 snipe were taken in that season, the last for which figures are available. This compared favorably with the duck kill, which was 350,000, according to the survey, but, of course, did not touch the reported harvest of native bobwhite quail—over 2 million—or the 3 million doves bagged in Florida.

South Florida Region hunters took the most snipe—120,000—with the Everglades Region following with 42,000. Next came Central Region with 21,000 birds, Northwest with 13,000 and Northeast with 7,000.

As usual, Florida had a choice in setting its snipe and woodcock seasons for 1968-69. The framework announced by the Federal boys would have per-



Drawing By Wallace Hughes

The Common Snipe, above, and the Woodcock—in flight

mitted the state to take its total allowable open days in September and October. But the Commission feels that more hunters will get to participate—and will enjoy their hunting more—if snipe and woodcock seasons open with the general season. This choice extends snipe and woodcock hunting over Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays; delays the shooting until southerly migrations of both species are at their peaks; and can provide a good middle-of-the-day type hunt when hunting for other game is apt to be somewhat slow. And besides, we have rail and gallinule hunting set to begin in September—and dove hunting opening in October. No need to stack snipe and woodcock on top of these.

So, Florida's snipe season is scheduled for November 9 through December 28. Woodcock season opens the same day—November 9—and closes January 12. Both seasons apply *statewide*; shooting hours are the same for both species: one-half hour before sunrise *to sunset*. Double check those daily bag limits: 8 snipe and 5 woodcock. And don't think, as we did when we started hunting these little wonders, that you can fill out in ten minutes with a handful of shells. We know a fellow—and it isn't ol' Ern—who regularly shoots about as many shells at snipe and woodcock as he does at doves—and that's just counting his good days. (Could *that* explain those yearly Christmas cards from Winchester-Western?) ●

EVEN THOUGH it is just late summer, there is a great deal of anticipation of the forthcoming hunting season in Florida. This should not surprise anyone who knows our state and our people, and the habit we have of enjoying, without interruption, whichever outdoor activities the season features. Actually, one can fish, hunt—or do both—somewhere in Florida year-round. Many families with outdoor-oriented ideas of fun take their vacations right in the middle of the general hunting season instead of during the summer months.

As the seasonal emphasis begins to shift from summer to fall and winter activities, such as migratory bird hunting (for rails and gallinules, then for dove, and later for snipe, woodcock and waterfowl) and the increasingly popular September archery hunts for deer, we should begin to give thought to getting ready.

Now is the time to prepare ourselves and our equipment for a safe, sane, satisfying hunting season—from the September start to the March and April finish. Not only should the outdoorsman have good, serviceable clothing, footwear, arms and camping gear; he should be in reasonably good physical condition; he should be in possession of a fresh supply of basic first aid materials, including a snake bite kit; and he should possess the knowledge and training required to use them properly.

Fall is the best possible time for the active hunter to schedule his annual physical checkup. Heart attack is the number one killer of American hunters, too many of whom overexert themselves in the field, ignorant of pre-existing ailments an examination would have detected. Don't gamble with your life unnecessarily. Get a checkup before hitting the hunting trail this year.

Turning now to the outlook for the 1968-69 season, we have reports that some game species are in fine shape, some below their usual population levels in parts of the state, and some are still big question marks.

Commission biologists say surveys of doves, conducted in Florida in late May and early June, indicated the breeding population was down slightly—by about 6%—but that this does not indicate any

Governor's Message

By **CLAUDE KIRK**, Governor
State of Florida



measurable reduction in the number of birds that will be available for hunters in October. The number of birds in the fall is almost wholly dependent upon nesting success, not a superabundance of breeders.

Quail and wild turkey prospects are said to be good, so far, in the northern portions of the state. Despite dry conditions this spring and summer, hatches and survival of both species were reportedly satisfactory. In southern Florida, however, hatches were low. Both quail and turkey were hurt by flooding. While quail will renest and may recover before the season opens in November, turkeys, on the other hand, are not as persistent. They do not renest.

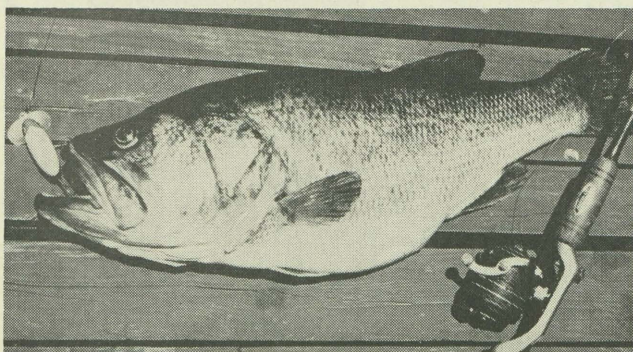
The Everglades deer herd is damp again due to the fickleness of the weather. Torrential rains earlier this summer placed water levels in the great water conservation areas as high as they were during the critical summer of 1966.

Experience and good game management dictate that the herd be left alone during this period of high water. No rescue operations are advisable, say biologists, since ample food supplies are still available—but much more difficult for the deer to obtain. Since the animals are already under stress, being chased and captured for purposes of relocation would only add to their stress and would increase the rate of mortality.

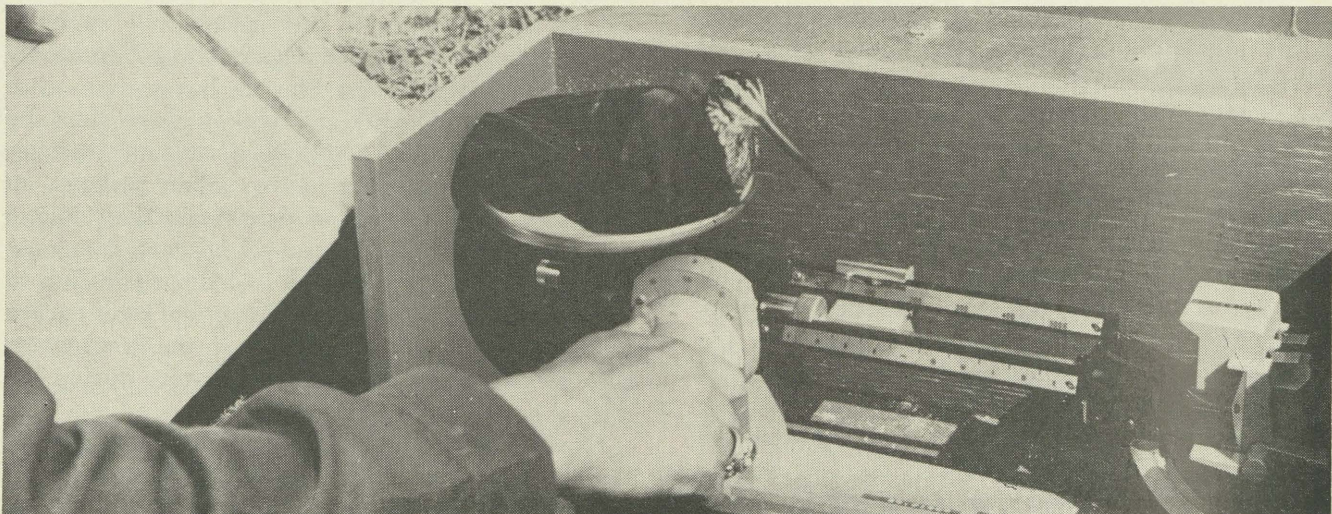
The history of the deer herd in the 'glades has been one of boom or bust. It expands rapidly under extended normal or low water conditions and is reduced dramatically when flooding occurs. We must remind ourselves from time to time that these deer live in what are primarily water conservation areas; therefore, courses of action in times of extremely high or low water in the storage areas must be geared first to human needs. They cannot always be in the best interests of wildlife, as valuable as these resources are to the state; as emotionally charged as the issue of "saving the animals" can become.

In the case of Everglades deer we firmly believe that given a chance, these animals will continue to save themselves. ●

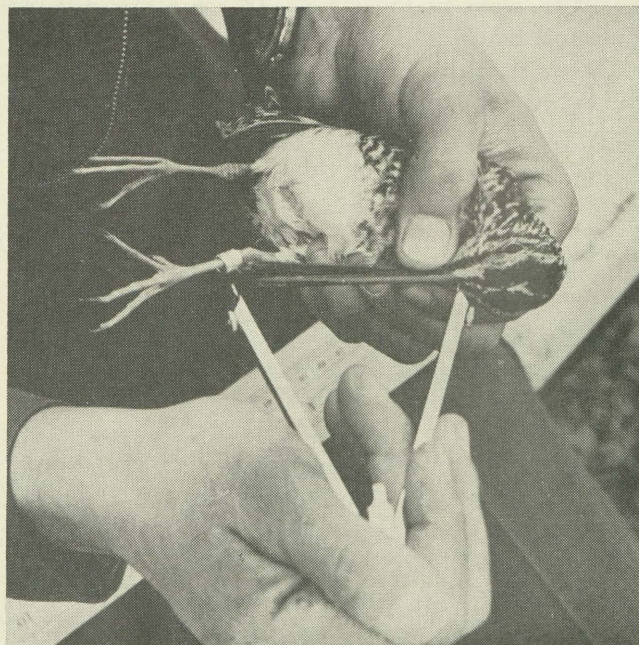
Fishing never fully gives way to hunting in Florida.



Snipe are ensnared in "mist" nets suspended above the marsh. The fine nylon strands are all but invisible, as this bird (right) found out. After removal, it is banded then weighed (center) and measured (lower photos). Wing and bill dimensions may give a clue to sex and age differences, now impossible to distinguish with these "look-alike" snipe.



Photos By Lovett Williams





Florida game biologists banded 503 snipe the past winter in cooperative study with other states. If you do bag a banded snipe—or other migratory game bird—be sure to send band to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., with date-location of kill. They will tell banding-location date.

banding the thunderbird

By MIKE FOGARTY

LAST YEAR the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was appropriated \$250,000 by Congress for accelerated research on migratory game birds other than waterfowl, which include rails, dove, woodcock and snipe. Florida, Texas and Louisiana agreed to assist with research on Common (Wilson's) Snipe, specifically, to band these birds on the wintering grounds.

Netting and trapping began toward the end of October on Paynes Prairie, a fresh water marsh just south of Gainesville.

Snipe breed in northern Canada from Alaska to Newfoundland. Before pairing there is much competition between the male birds for the favor of certain females. Aerial jousts between suitors involve loop-the-loops, gliding upside down and "winnowing," a very un-descriptive term for such a spectacular aerobatic display.

A banded snipe is released. The blur of its long, pointed wings show this is a strong, speedy flyer—a worthy hunting challenger. The name is from old German word "snout."

During this maneuver the male attains a good altitude, sets his wings and plummets downward much like a falcon. At the last moment he pulls out of the dive and spreads his stiff tail feathers. As the wind rushes through his tail feathers a deep, far off humming is produced which sounds like distant thunder. Indians living within the snipe's breeding range call him the "thunderbird."

After the courtship displays and pair formation, the female lays a clutch of four eggs and does the incubating chores. When the eggs hatch—in about 19 days—the male appears and takes with him the first two chicks. He will raise these young, the female going her own way with the remaining chicks.

In September the snipe begin their migration to the wintering range, probing for a living in the marshlands of the Southeast. Previous banding returns show that snipe are restless creatures. Before beginning their spring migration back northward some may visit the West Indies, the northern coasts of South America, the Gulf coast countries of Central America and southern Texas.

The snipe, although a fine game bird, has been largely passed over by the wingshooting fraternity of Florida. Its very erratic flight following blast-off from the marsh provides the shotgunner a sporty target, a combination of the qualities of the mourning dove and the bobwhite quail.

The initial banding work by Florida game biologists this past winter tallied 503 birds. The snipe is said to be faithful to its wintering grounds so many of the Florida-banded birds should return to their old haunts this fall, resulting in band recoveries. If you bag a banded snipe—or any other migratory game bird—be sure to send the band to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. 20240. They, in turn, will notify you of the date and location your bird was banded. ●





Patience, silence, practically motionless occupancy of a blind overlooking a deer feeding area resulted in this fine deer success.

It's That Time Again

the new—and special—hunting seasons are almost here

BOWHUNTING IN Florida is now large scale sport, with its own special seasons.

But relatively few of the sport's followers can look back and claim attendance at Florida's first organized, Game Commission sanctioned, bowhunt, experimentally held in the Ocala National Forest in October 1952. Simply, there were relatively few in attendance!

Principal quarry of that memorable hunt, as now, were antlered deer, although bear and panther were then also legal big game targets.

No deer were killed on the first organized bowhunt, but there were some close misses and numerous small game species were successfully bagged. It might be said that on the first hunt the odds were heavily in favor of the hunted rather than the hunters.

Few of the bowmen on that first hunt had matched archery tackle, basic knowledge, and hunting techniques commonly characteristic of today's notably successful bowhunters. In fact, most in the group had never actually hunted game with bow and arrow.

Solid style fiber glass bows were new introductions of that period, and were represented. These were undeniably powerful and durable, but most imparted a noticeable and accuracy-affecting shock-vibration to bow arm on arrow release.

There were a number of straight-limb, solid wood English style bows made from osage orange, Oregon yew and lemonwood. Some of the participants had made their own.

Composite, full working recurve bows of bonded wood laminations, as customarily carried today, were few.

Only a small minority of the eager group had pre-tested their hunting arrows for qualities of correct length, weight, spine, fletching and nock fit or all-important broadhead sharpness. Many now popular broadhead hunting blades had not even been designed.

Bow style quivers, widely used by today's bowmen, were notably absent. Most of the quivers carried were old style, conventional over-the-shoulder type. A few participants had hip pocket arrow hold-

ing pouches. Others used some form of homemade quiver or simply carried extra arrows in one hand and later stuck them handily in the ground when taking a stand at some chosen hunting spot.

However, the value of camouflage was even then realized. Most in attendance wore some sort of camouflage attire and daubed theatrical greasepaint on face and hands, but many had overlooked the probable field hunting handicaps of noisy-fabric clothing, a squeaky shoe, a shiny belt buckle or watch band and uncamouflaged, sunlight reflecting bow limbs.

It mattered not that no one put a kill-tag on a deer, bear or panther that first hunt. Everyone had a good time and returned home enthusiastic about bowhunting—although a bit disappointed, and acutely aware of the need for more pre-hunt preparation and field finesse.

Major field mistakes made were reviewed and discussed. These embraced improperly matched tackle; inattention to the importance of true arrow sharpness; lack of complete camouflage; inability to properly slow-stalk wary targets; lack of practice on life-size animal figure targets placed at varying distances, and the mistake of making the inside area of constructed blinds too small for unhandicapped shooting.

But experience gained on the first hunt, combined with sensible evaluation of individual mistakes, paid off.

The following season (1953), within fifteen minutes after sunrise on an October morning, W. T. McDaniel, of Eustis, accurately released a sharp broadhead arrow that downed a 4-point buck of 115 pounds, during the special bowhunting period again authorized for the Ocala National Forest.

Another bowhunter killed a buck that year, to make the score two, but it was McDaniel who first proved that a Florida sportsman could bag a buck with bow and arrow.

From that moment on, Florida bowhunting activity got periodic shots of adrenalin. Interest and participation soared.

The Game Commission rapidly opened new bowhunting areas—including the instantly popular Eglin Field and Citrus Game Management Areas. Big game bag limits were changed, generally increased. Where surplus doe deer populations permitted, an annual allotment of does was granted. Special wild hog hunts were also added to the bowhunting calendar.

By EDMUND McLAURIN

In 1967, the Game Commission declared a 16-day statewide, open bowhunting season, preceding the regularly scheduled wildlife management area bowhunts and the general gun hunting season. This statewide archery season is also in effect this year. Heavy participation is expected for all the scheduled hunts. Interest is high.

Whether or not 1968 bowhunting activity will surpass the record participation figures of the years when the Citrus Game Management Area held the added attraction of a possible legal doe kill remains to be seen. Even though bowmen never harvested their full quota of allowed doe kills, the added incentive of those years brought out eager tyros as well as expert toxophilites.

As the ranks of bowhunters increased, organization naturally followed. The Florida Bowhunters Council came into being and soon gained recognition as the official voice of hundreds of affiliates. The organization publishes a newsy bi-monthly magazine, "Florida Archery and Bowhunting."

The current calendar reflects many changes from the period years of the early hunts.

There are more licensed bowmen and they are organized on various levels. Their equipment is better and their hunting skills have been sharpened by experience and field-tested techniques. There are more places to hunt and more designated open days to hunt them. Bowmen have proven they can kill any legal or predator class game that walks or flies. They have an enviable record of good public relations with all landowners, and of good conduct afield.

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Pre-season practice on animal figure targets is now a statewide activity as bowmen start preparation for special archery hunts.

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Obviously, Florida bowhunting is here to stay.

Participation-wise, the sport will continue to reflect numerical peaks and dips, but the representation of active bowhunters will always be high, so long as Florida, through its Game Commission, provides special seasons and incentive.

To welcome newcomers to the sport, and to generally share plans and anticipation for the coming bowhunting season, the Florida Bowhunters Council annually holds a Jamboree in the Citrus Game Management Area during the long Labor Day week end.

The theme is a combination of serious talk, camp fire fun, good eating and field practice shooting over known and unknown distances at lifesize animal figure targets. Capable instructors join successful hunters in helping newcomers get started right in bowhunting. One does not have to be an enrolled affiliate to take part in these happy gatherings.

Similarly, when Eglin Field's bowhunting season opens, there is always a big shindig at Niceville the night before opening day.

Archery tackle is now so highly perfected and made to such standards of useful, long-lived quality that a beginner can safely select his first bow from any widely used national brand, sold by a dealer specializing in archery supplies and enjoying an established consumer trade. Whatever final choice, the acquired bow is likely to be far superior to anything the Indian had, Robin Hood's followers shot or Genghis Khan's men carried into battle.

The modern bow combines the best features of the three types, and can be rightly considered a carefully engineered, remarkably accurate weapon. A good bow in deluxe model may cost as much as a good rifle, although average required cash outlay is usually well within an aspiring bowhunter's means.

Modern bow limbs are made wide and of thin laminations of maple and other suitable woods bonded together with urea-formaldehyde resin glue or any of several other permanent adhesives. Ends are invariably recurve design, to give the bow limbs extra power and smooth spring-like action clear back to the handle section, which is usually made from walnut or other colorful hardwoods. Overall lengths vary from 52-inch "shorties" to 69-inch versions. Most hunting bows are somewhere between 62 and 54 inches long.

Short bows are easier to use from a kneeling position or within the confines of a blind. Long limbed bows tend to snag their tips when so used.

However, when using a long limbed bow from any reasonably open firing point, the length is not such a pronounced handicap. Most instinctive style shooters tilt their bows slightly, anyway, when drawing and aiming, to better obtain full view of target and intended path of the arrow's flight.



Erwin Wunderlich, of Bradenton, and his father pose for a photo with big buck bagged by Erwin on the Citrus Wildlife Management Area. Last year was his first bowman's season.

Flat arrow trajectory is very desirable in bowhunting; an arrow that takes low trajectory path will be more apt to pass cleanly through small brush openings than one that takes a trajectory flight of marked curvature. One gets flattest obtainable trajectory from using the most powerful, full-working recurve type bow he can draw and control for accurate aim.

Actually, a bow is simply a powerful spring that, when flexed and released, imparts power, or "cast," to a nocked arrow.

The shorter the bow, the more sensitive it will be to introduced errors of draw, hold, aim and release, but most short bows will give better cast to an arrow than a longer bow of same draw weight.

Short or long limbed, straight end style or working recurve, the bowhunter should never use a bow that he or she cannot hold at full draw and aim for ten seconds without accuracy-ruining tremors.

Many bowmen who start out using heavy pulling bows later realize that they must change to a less powerful bow if they are to achieve full bow control and accuracy so necessary to good target scores or successful field hunting.

A beginner is usually so intrigued with surmised importance of bow weight or draw weight (pulling power needed to bring the bow to full draw) that

he overlooks the fact that the weight of a bow is never a realistic measure of its true killing power.

Factually, it is a bow's related "cast" (the velocity and distance it will shoot an arrow of proper weight and length) teamed with an arrowpoint's shape and sharpness that does the killing. If a broadhead's cutting edges are truly sharp, almost any hunting bow of good, fast cast will be sufficiently powerful to drive the arrow's lethal point into the vital rib cage of a deer at a range of thirty-five yards or under, the range within which most deer are shot.

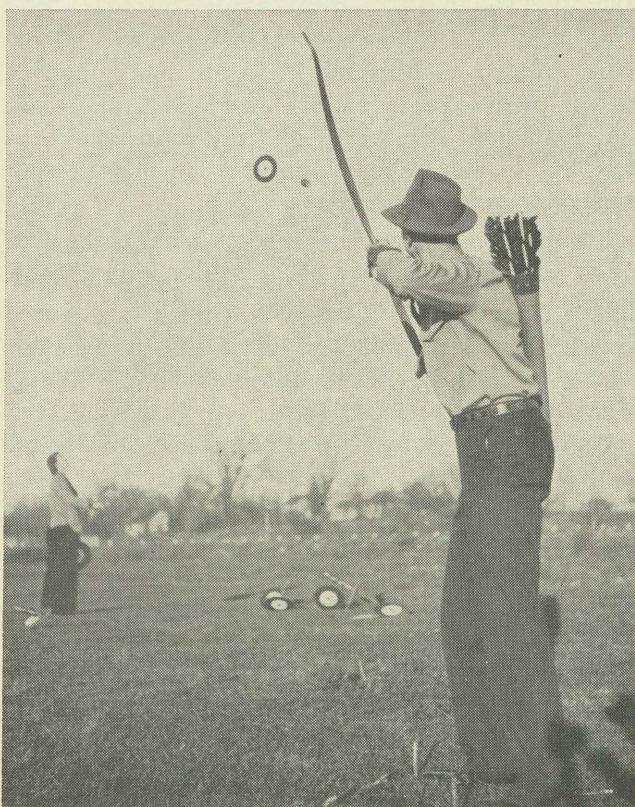
Seek the advice of an expert bowman or a qualified supplier in selecting the bow weight and overall length best suited to your field needs.

Get the same type of careful, unhurried assistance in choosing arrows that match bow weight and your arrow-length requirements. A frequent mistake is to buy unmatched arrows that are also too long, too cheap, or both.

For hunting, the importance of razor-sharp broadheads cannot be over-emphasized. Whatever the blade style, cutting edges should be so sharp that you can shave the hair on your arm when testing for sharpness.

Approved bowhandling technique is largely basic and needs to be thoroughly mastered only once. Thereafter, the acquired knowledge is repeatedly applied to incorporated sequences. Successful archers are usually those who give great attention to

Florida bowmen have even knocked down pheasants and quail in wild flight. Practice shooting fiber disks sailed by an assistant is excellent preparation for game bird hunting.



each of the sequence steps that comprise the act of nocking, drawing, aiming and releasing an arrow as a single executed shot.

Considered highly important to good results is a relaxed bow-holding hand; use of the same nocking point on bowstring for each shot after correct nocking point is established; straight line shooting stance (from bow-holding hand through shoulders and right arm to the right elbow) when at full draw; a consistent anchor point on the face; correct, careful aim; maintained full draw without arrow creep during the critical aiming period; relaxed finger release (of the arrow) and follow through with body and aiming eye for each shot.

If you execute these basic steps correctly, you will likely shoot well, even if you never become a target champion or an envied field expert.

To aspire to target championship titles of national or state level also calls for the right temperament and ability to perform under competitive pressures.

Being an envied, successful hunter often calls for a smile from Lady Luck as well as applied skills. Many excellent target shots never win championships just as many expert bowhunters may be overshadowed by a less skilled bowman blessed with better than average hunting luck.

Some mighty fine deer trophies have been taken by persons on their first bowhunt. Reflect on the fact that only last season 14 year old Erwin Wunderlich, of Bradenton, on his first bowhunt, killed a 152 pound Florida white-tail buck that sported a massive 10-point rack. Consider, too, that a number of women — using comparatively light bows — have killed an envied complement of Florida bucks, including many large-rack 8-pointers.

Camouflage clothing is now standard attire of serious bowhunters. It is amazing how a completely camouflaged bowman and his camouflaged weapon will blend into backgrounds common to wild game habitat!

Shoes? Fred Bear, famous big game bowhunter, favors tennis shoes or sneakers for quiet stepping afield. In really cold weather, a pair of thick wool socks slipped over regular, warmer hunting boots will help silence foot tread. A practically noiseless stalk frequently is a successful one, so far as getting a shot is concerned.

Predators make good pre-hunting season practice targets. If you can kill foxes, bobcats, coons and crows with bow and arrow you are obviously ready for deer and legal wild hogs, when their special seasons and hunting areas open.

Unless a bowman has put in some pre-season practice at successful close stalking of game, he will probably have better hunting luck if he selects a good spot and stays there for the duration of a hunt period, and lets other hunters put the game on the move.

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Inability to accurately judge distance can be attributed to many misses of seemingly fairly easy shots. For example, misjudging five yards in distance to a deer actually 35 yards from the hunter will likely result in a miss.

If you face the coming bowhunting season without field practice in distance judging, or have done all your practice shooting at only one range, you can offset the handicap by constructing a blind just off a used game trail, then measuring and stalking your usual shooting distance in different directions from the blind. Use markers that your eye will readily pick up, but animals will not likely notice. Any game animal or varmint approaching close to one of your measured distance markers will also be very close to your usual, effective killing range. The same idea can be carried out if you elect to hunt from a tree-stand.

A shooting station above ground level has both advantages and disadvantages. Advantages are that you are not as likely to be seen or smelled by deer as would be the case if you were on the ground; you have better visibility and better chance of aiming and releasing an arrow without detection. Disadvantages develop from having to perform in a

Full camouflage—even to face mask, gloves and covered bow—is recommended to stalk close enough to wary game.



restricted, sometimes precarious position; inability to climb down and stalk out-of-range targets without being seen or heard, and the tendency to shoot high, as will the average rifleman firing from a considerable height above his target.

When hunting is done from a tree-stand, the bowhunter always releases two or three practice shots at some selected ground object, to acclimate his shooting with changed elevation and viewpoint. Such practice arrows, of course, are not immediately retrieved, but are left at points of final rest until the end of the hunt period.

Archers are of divided opinion as to the value of a bow sight. Many barebow hunters argue that the only sporting way to shoot a longbow is to shoot it instinctively. On the other hand, users of bow sights—especially where they have learned to use a bow sight in conjunction with accurately judged distances—have a remarkable record of hunting successes. A bow sight is very practical in helping to detect and analyze errors in shooting form.

It is difficult for a beginner to keep an arrow on the shelf of an unflexed bow. The least bump is apt to knock the idle arrow off its rest. Therefore, many beginners like a bow-attaching arrow holder, a mechanical device that keeps the arrow in ready position until the archer starts his draw, when it releases automatically.

Experts hunting from a ground level stand habitually scrape the interior ground area of a constructed blind clear of noise-making leaves and twigs, then set up loaded bow in readiness by placing it across two forked sticks in front of them while putting in long, patient vigil.

Archery as a followed sport has a high national safety record, considering there are more than 40 million active participants. Most bowhunters are serious minded persons afield, fully conscious of the fact that a bow, like a gun, can be a dangerous weapon if carelessly used.

For personal safety, never use imperfect equipment. Frequently inspect all items of archery tackle for developing flaws.

For the safety of others, adopt the cardinal rule of gun hunting and make certain of the identity of your target before you shoot.

Never release an arrow without being able to see its full flight path.

If these primary safety rules are followed, and you use everyday common sense afield, your bowhunting will probably never be marred by regrettable accident.

The bow is one of man's oldest and still most widely used weapons. Truly, "so long as the new moon returns to the heavens, a bent silver bow, so long will archery retain its hold on the heart of man."

It's that time again. Good hunting! ●

Outdoor Recreation

Part 2

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

IN THE LAST ISSUE I discussed some of the qualifications essential to leadership in the field of resource management. It was pointed out why it is necessary for professionals working for private industry to enlarge their public relations efforts and not simply confine them to preaching within their own group. It mentioned the complaint, by some, that people are ignorant of fundamental resource matters, and that they do not appreciate the professional's superior knowledge. Their sometimes querulous disagreement with public thinking is analogous to an observation of Josh Billings, that "People know so many things that ain't so."

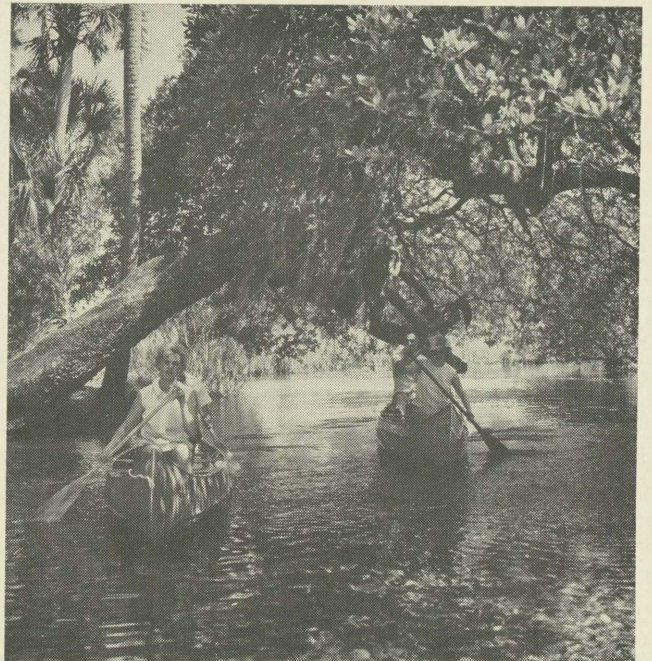
Today there are many professionals in public service, both federal and state, who have the same complaint as do their counterparts in private industry. But in all instances, leadership means leading, not following a mob. Now let us examine the case of those in public service.

All of these professionals, whatever their specialties, and whether in public or private service, graduate from the same schools. It is after all these young men step out beyond the college influence with the same basic training that they suddenly are confronted with the fact that public agencies and private industries may and do have some sharply differing objectives. Those employed in private industry must orient their thinking to the policies of the companies that employ them. Those who work for public agencies discover their actions are bound by legislative and administrative directives which in great measure are developed through the processes of public opinion.

The young forester, engineer or biologist who goes to work for a public agency is not a free-born evangelist who can wing his course as his fancy dictates, any more than his graduating friend who went with industry. Both, however, should stay attuned to public thinking and stay ahead of it.

Even though appointed commissions and public bureau heads determine certain procedures and policies, their authority comes from basic laws which the public had a hand in making. These laws may be enabling acts and may be flexible, or they can be very restrictive. It is also the people through their legislative bodies who determine where the operating funds will come from, what their limitations will be and where they will be spent. Here again, policy and budget laws may be very flexible or very restrictive.

Money set up for fighting forest fires usually cannot be spent to increase a warden force or for hiring



Broadened views of today's recreation needs consider all outdoor activities. Private industry and government are partners in multiple-use recreation planning—a good sign.

biologists. Unless specifically authorized, earmarked funds for research cannot be spent for land acquisition or lake shore access. And so budgets and laws continue ad-infinity as to what can be done, when it can be done, and how much can be spent on each segment of a program.

Present college curriculums may have improved in these matters, but in past years many a young man—with no prior warnings—has started out on his white horse only to find himself all snarled up with travel approvals, car pools, project limitations and overtime warnings, and possibly a hostile public because no one had taken the trouble to inform people regarding the intended benefits of a project. Some are shocked to discover that the public is their boss.

About this time young enthusiasts intending to set the world on fire start talking to themselves or to a bosom associate on the witlessness of administrators, commissioners, legislators and an indifferent public. Having started out with a gleam in their eyes they find themselves bound up in what they consider unnecessary red tape and little appreciation for the scriptural mandates they brought along from school. Even young men starting with private industry have some of these same frustrations.

But back to public agencies. It is through these early trials of being singed by realities that the true measure of the prospective public servant begins to emerge. If he can learn the rules of the game and still keep his zeal he will eventually contribute to the cause of conservation. But if the impact of too many forces curdle his spirit, then he will ultimately

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settle for an eight hour day and a five day week, and crawl under a rock to nurse a wounded ego and wait for the first pension check.

On the other hand, the secret of bringing young men along in public service so that they are tough-minded, seasoned, aggressive and still evangelistic, rests with the boss man who is running the agency. That is where the fountainhead of leadership must center. That is where the fighter should be, at the head of the parade at all times, so that his enthusiasm and skill and perseverance will rub off on all who work for him.

If the head of a department is afraid to stand up and be counted, if he back-pedals from sticky issues affecting public conservation policies, if he too considers his personal survival and his future pension check of more importance than the resources he is entrusted to preserve and manage, then the agency will be a rather ineffective and sickly outfit. He may have to cross swords occasionally with politically sensitive governors, legislators and greedy private interests when resource integrity is at stake, and then it is better to go down fighting than to protect his own immediate destiny. Gifford Pinchot in the Ballinger case is a good example. He lost his position as head of the Forest Service but also won the battle for the national forests.

The argument is becoming more common today, that because all resource agencies have expanded beyond the wildest dreams of twenty-five years ago—both personnel and budget wise—that only trained business administrators are capable of heading them up. What conservation needs today is men of scholastic resource background and then years of

Professional integrity among biologists and wildlife administrators may mean the survival of many species in future years. When job security and fringe benefit comes first, then the care of resources must suffer.

Photo By Wallace Hughes

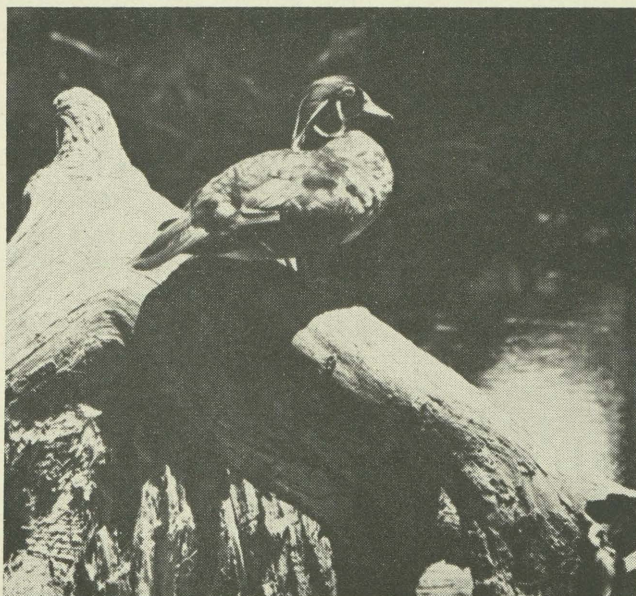


Photo By Gene Smith

All users of the outdoors—the hunters, campers, fishermen, boaters—must share in nationwide efforts for needed areas.

active field experience in the husbandry of resources, along with graduated doses of administration mixed in. If capacity for promotion becomes apparent, then there should be added administrative training so that both resource and administrative knowledge are combined. The U.S. Forest Service does an admirable job of training its men along these lines.

But a profession is supposed to be just what the term implies, not just another job. The enthusiasm of young men should not be suppressed, they should be encouraged, nurtured and given intelligent and understanding direction. In reverse, youngsters should not wilt with the first impact of obstacles. Overcoming obstacles is what develops character.

The professions today are being smothered by too many assembly-line industrial philosophies that cater to the eight hour, five day week and overtime. Conservation knows no overtime. Administrators hamstrung by restrictive labor laws tell their people not to increase costs by overtime payments. This does not encourage dedication. It defeats the cause of conservation which cannot run on schedules and should not. It dilutes one of the basic ingredients of conservation, evangelism. Because of modern trends too many youngsters become more interested in hours, fringe benefits and pensions than in how effective they can be.

For many years there was a big lag in pay scales between those in the field of conservation and other professions. To a great degree that gap has been closed, but top salaries are no guarantee of case-hardened application when the going gets rough; it may even work the other way. Dedication must be born in a man and sustained regardless of the odds. ●

BOATING



By ELGIN WHITE

WE HAVE HAD MORE queries of late about houseboats and houseboating, I suppose, than any other subject. I am really quite amazed at the sudden spurt taken by houseboating in the Hew Hess Hay.

Well, partially amazed. Houseboats have been part of the Florida scene for centuries, but only recently, say in the past two or three years, have people gone ape over them.

Why? Guess the reason is simple enough. This is the era of family fun. And unless the whole family can participate in a sport to at least a partial degree, it just isn't fun any more!

New, modern houseboats have grown from the passable to the elegant. You can get a houseboat nowadays that is appointed like a palace, with full air conditioning and the whole works. 'Course, there aren't too many of us folks who can swing up to \$80,000 for one of these yachts, but beautifully appointed houseboats now can be purchased for as little as \$10,000. "Big deal!" us folks might say right on, but think about it. A completely equipped houseboat, 32-foot in length with excellent power for that much money beats the heck out of a regular family run-a-bout with full power and equipment for the same wad of federal diplomas.

The whole family can sleep, eat, relax and thoroughly enjoy a houseboat for weeks at a time. These broad-beamed craft can handle just about any kind of sea, and the larger 50-footers and up can even whomp it along in the open oceans.

Volkswagen had an ad several years ago that said their station wagon had more room because it was built like a box on wheels. Houseboat manufacturers wouldn't be too far off course if they advertised their product as a "box" that floats.

That box-like construction is one of the reasons why the boating trend is to houseboats. No matter whether the box is placed on twin hulls, a deep-V or a flat-bottomed barge, the box offers headroom, spacious living accommodations and other creature comforts unavailable on other craft of comparable size.

The old time cooking styles have given way to modern galleys on boats of all sizes—thanks to the women.

Family Fun

family boating vacation fun has become more attractive with houseboat dealers now able to offer a variety of modern, comfortable styles

The houseboat's galley could be more properly called a kitchen, since it often contains everything from full-size range to freezer. The bunks are often king-size beds. And the box-like construction also permits such lubberly luxuries as walk-in closets and picture windows.

The boat's foredeck—generally canopied—makes a perfect fishing and diving platform. It is also big enough to serve as a patio for cookouts. The flat roof is perfect for sunbathing.

Houseboat decor is aimed right at the ladies' hearts. Designers—unhampered by sharp prows, ribs and weird angles—have come up with Early American dinettes, Danish Modern living rooms and Ultra Suburban bathrooms.

Comfort isn't the only reason for houseboating's surge in popularity. As mentioned above, they're economical to buy (in a literal sense, that is) and economical to operate. We mentioned a 32-footer that will go for about \$10,000 . . . well, there are some very plush 42-footers, and that's getting into a large boat class, that you can pick up for a measly \$20,000.

Because they're designed for slow and easy operation on inland waters for the most part, house-

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boats have smaller, more economical power plants than big cruisers. Single or twin stern drive systems are now most common, but there are many houseboats that use standard outboards.

Another thing that is springing up all over Florida, particularly in the past year, is houseboat rentals. Several areas, notably Kissimmee, St. Petersburg and the Fort Lauderdale-Miami region, have houseboats for rent and the cost is reasonable.

Rentals for a houseboat sleeping from four to six cost from \$200 a week on up, depending on location and size. A family now can drive up, make a deposit, get a short course in houseboat navigation and handling, step aboard and be off on a leisurely vacation.

The average rental rate on a houseboat is about \$300 per week for a boat that sleeps six and up. Some livery services—catering primarily to business outings—offer deluxe 75-footers that sleep more than a dozen and cost upward of \$100 per day. Advance registrations for these classic babies are a “must.”

When you balk at the \$200 or \$300 tab for a week, consider this is a family style boating fun with everything furnished on the boat but your food. Where else can a family enjoy the luxury of a plush motel, complete with kitchenette, that can move around the country-side on the water for that kind of money?

The latest trend in the houseboat rental business is franchising. Over the past two years, at least one

Houseboating along Florida streams has become a popular family pastime on the Sunshine State recreational scene.



national rental franchiser, complete with central reservation service, plus several regional ones, have come into being.

If the Huck Finn life of houseboating appeals to you, I'd advise you to get there early. Manufacturers and livery services are starting to have a tough time keeping up with the demand.

And while we're on the subject of things changing in boating, have you, skipper, really taken a good look at what the distaff side has done to boating in the past few years? Yeah, I mean the girls, man, the girls!

Women are in boating to stay, fellas, and everyone, including this old skipper, is tickled to death about it!

Many a dashing young bachelor has been forced to trade in his sports car on a station wagon after the girl he's chasing catches him.

The same thing is true of his boat, according to some of my cronies with the Boating Industry Association.

The resort Siren might well be wowed when the local Jason roars up to the dock in the flashy hydroplane with molded leopard skin seats and metallic finish. But once she's snared him he's likely to turn in his “Jet Fire” or “Swinger” in favor of a “Homeliner” or a “Princess.”

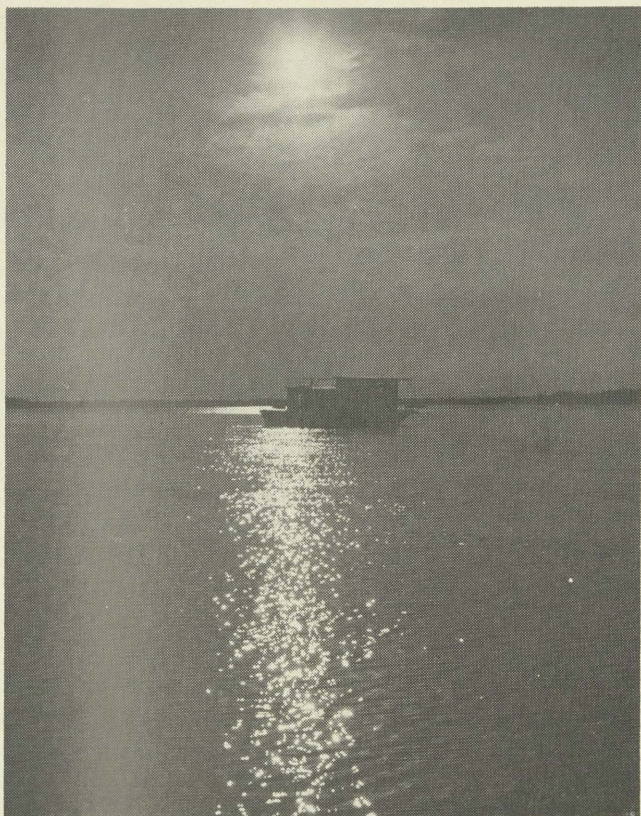
Women took to boating just as soon as they realized outboard motors weren't “Knuckle-busters” anymore and that windshields protected hairdos.

They liked boating well enough . . . if only they could make a few changes. Realizing the potential there, manufacturers began going all-out to give the gals all the changes they wanted—and they're still scrambling to please what they term “Women in Boating.”

Take hulls for example. When men were calling the shots, boat hulls came in white, gray or natural wood finish. The new marine paints and fiberglass pigments wouldn't have made much difference to the men—they'd still be ordering white, gray or wood. Now that the girls have something to say about it, boats come in all colors, not to mention two-tones, stripes, swirls and even gold and silver speckles.

Boat seats are another example. Men were doing just fine sitting on boards, perhaps softened with weathered, canvas-covered cushions. The women complained, and manufacturers were quick to assuage them with colorful vinyl seats that converted into lounges for sunbathing.

And while men were still dreaming of a tip-proof Sterno can for cooking aboard, women were demanding—and getting—galleys that allowed them to



A variety of the newly made houseboats are now available, and families can stay out, and afloat, for days and nights.

do everything they could in the kitchen at home—in a fraction of the space.

Women don't want to wash in a bucket of water fetched from over the side, so boatbuilders are giving them shower stalls, even on boats less than 30 feet long. Convertible tops have replaced the canvas duck rainsuit, and portholes are giving way to picture windows, thanks to the gals.

Old salts might complain about these female frills, but there is plenty of evidence to suggest that most males like the creature comforts women have brought to boating. After all, drinks stay cooler in the new marine refrigerators, and dinette tables are great for poker, and fishing rods stow quite neatly in the vee-bunks.

One word of caution to skippers: Your absolute authority as captain is already being undermined by women. In a couple of years you won't be able to keep them in their place by ordering them to swab the decks—they'll have 'em covered with water-proof carpeting!

To MOVE FROM the ridiculous (I'm only kiddin', girls) to a subject that is, or should be, quite serious . . . let us again emphasize the need for boating safety education. The recent horror that happened on a central Florida lake near Lakeland over the Fourth of July week-end when seven people were drowned was inexcusable.

The Florida Boating Council is moving in the right direction with its safety education programs, but they need a lot of help and cooperation from a lot of people. Some are getting with it in co-operating with the Boating Council's Youth Education programs, but not nearly enough of the areas in Florida are so doing.

This excellent program was brought to 8,000 youngsters this past July through the splendid co-operation of Sheriff Malcolm Beard of Hillsborough County, and those Hillsborough youngsters will be far better boat handlers for it.

Earlier this year 7,000 youngsters received the education course in Brevard County and 2,000 in Sarasota. In the calendar year of 1967 more than 100,000 youngsters throughout Florida received the FBC courses, so things are certainly going to get better. Officials of the department hope to have strong programs in Duval and Escambia counties soon. The sooner the better, and we won't experience these tragedies that are so senseless and useless.

Another fine program being undertaken by the Board of Conservation's boating council is the distribution now being made to Florida television stations of 30-second sound and color film clips for boating safety. FBC Director Randolph Hodges urges boaters of all ages to utilize the splendid safety and education courses being offered by local power squadrons, the Coast Guard, Red Cross and local sheriff organizations. Heed the suggestion!

AND THE BEAT goes on for stern drives. Popularity of the stern drive, or inboard-outboard, continues to soar. We have received figures on sales from the Boating Industry that show sales of stern drives have climbed from virtually zero in 1962 to 36,000 units in 1967, and industry officials claim the I-O will zoom past 40,000 this year. That doesn't sound like such a big deal in view of the total number of boats sold each year, but consider this is a definite trend in only the past five years. The chief appeal appears to be the combination of outboard maneuverability with inboard engine performance and economy.

Well, I might go along with that. However, in all candor I would have to report here that I have never had a successful cruise with an I-O, and I have made many cruises throughout Florida. We try to use as many different types craft as possible, and we have used I-O's on four occasions, and not once have they finished the trip.

Now this could be coincidence, of course, but looks like we could have gotten at least one out of four, doesn't it?

I'll stay with the outboards until convinced otherwise! ●

Game Management Notes

IN A VERY PRODUCTIVE public meeting at the Broward County Courthouse in mid-July, sportsmen's organizations and other interested conservationists expressed firm support for biologists recommendations to protect the Everglades deer herd from harassment by motor-driven vehicles, specifically asking Everglades Region Commissioner W. T. McBroom, Miami, for such emergency regulation, to be kept in effect until the deer are out of danger from current high water. Palm Beach, Dade and Broward county airboat and halftrack clubs, the main users of the area in question, Conservation Area 3 in Broward County, urged support of the Commission's position by other known users of the flooded area.

According to Game Management Chief James A. Powell, Tallahassee, examination of the affected area, where an estimated 2,000 deer were living before this spring's all-time record rains, shows there is sufficient food still available to sustain most of the herd, even though the animals are hard put to obtain it.

Concurring with noted deer disease authority Dr. Frank Hayes, Athens, Ga., Director of the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, the Commission concluded in July that rest is far more indicated than relocation or artificial feeding of the Everglades deer herd, both of which were attempted during the high water crisis of 1966.

After careful laboratory examination of deer most representative of animals weakened by flood conditions two years ago, Dr. Hayes concluded without doubt that serious disease and/or starvation were not in effect at that time; that parasite burdens were not unusually heavy; but that the deer were vulnerable to a variety of infectious diseases. He then recommended alleviation of further stress on the animals, deeming this essential for reasonably adequate survival of most of the herd.

Based upon this knowledge, and upon assessment of the current situation, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, by emergency order, prohibited the use of vehicles and boats driven by motors in the northern portion of Conservation Area 3. The order, dated and effective July 22, 1968, covers a 90-day period, but could be repealed—or extended—as Everglades weather and water levels might dictate.

Participants in the July meeting at Ft. Lauderdale, besides Commission representatives, were Dr. Hayes, who commented upon his studies of both the 1966 and the current situations, reiterating that the best help for the distressed deer is no help, and spokesmen for the Central and South Florida Flood Control District and the State Flood Control Board, who described their all-out efforts to reduce the flood threat by drawing off excess water at full capacity.



Everglades deer are resourceful, hardy and prolific. Even when hit by floods they usually find sufficient food; make a strong comeback in seasons of both normal or low waters.

THREE CONTROLLED gun hunts have been scheduled for the Citrus Wildlife Management Area in Citrus County. The three hunts will be restricted to hunters who hold a special Citrus Gun Hunt Permit, and will be limited to not more than 1200 hunters per hunt. Dates for the hunts are: November 9-10, November 16-17 and November 23-24.

Hunt applications, for individuals or parties of up to five persons each, are available from any Commission office. They must be filled out and returned to the Tallahassee office by September 30 for a public drawing on October 7. Each application must indicate the hunt choice, age and the wildlife management area stamp number of each applicant or member of a party.

Only a regular hunting license and management area stamp are required for the Citrus gun hunts, in addition to the no-cost special Citrus Gun Hunt Permit.

SEVERAL OF THE Commission's Game Management Division personnel are currently active in The Wildlife Society, nationally prominent professional organization founded in 1937.

Division Chief James A. Powell, Tallahassee, is Florida representative to the Society, serves on the important Forest Game Committee and on the Turkey Subcommittee of the Southeastern Section.

Research biologist Lovett E. Williams, Jr., Gainesville, is Secretary-Treasurer of the Southeastern Section; Frank A. Winston, Lakeland, veteran dove biologist, is a member and past chairman of the Section's Dove Committee.

Biologist Michael J. Fogarty, research project assistant, Gainesville, holds a post on the Rare and Endangered Species Committee; and another project assistant, David H. Austin, Avon Park, is a member of the Exotic Game Bird Committee, Southeastern Section. ●

Firearm Facts

HUNTING



By EDMUND McLAURIN

over the entire country all styles of individuals are now voicing their opinions—and many of them are weird—about firearms regulations

EVERYWHERE I GO I am publicly or privately asked my prediction of the probable final outcome of the present national gun legislation proposals and created controversy.

In reply, I try to point out that the entire country is feeling the emotional impact and reaction of combined shock and indignation created by the second Kennedy family assassination, and that countless mild-mannered, innocent-of-action, gun owners are unfairly taking the brunt of the emotionally engendered mass hysteria.

Admittedly, we are currently faced with the problems of easy accessibility and radical misuse of firearms by a relative small minority of irresponsible persons.

The first probably won't ever be solved, in view of the many different illegal ways criminals and radicals can get the weapons they desire, whatever our prohibiting laws.

The second can probably be given sensible solution by making *misuse*, not mere possession of the weapon, the criteria for meted out punishment for convictions of crimes involving use of a deadly weapon.

There is misconception among many lawmakers, whatever their legislative level, and among many citizens, that if a problem exists in our society, passing an applicable law will automatically solve it.

Not so! Quite often a law is passed, but the basic problem remains unsolved.

The long standing Sullivan Law of New York and the recent year gun registration laws of the cities of New York and Chicago are typical examples. The laws were passed with good intent, but have not accomplished their purpose. The deadly weapon crime rate continues to be high, despite the laws. The major effect has been licensing inconvenience and hardship on law-abiding citizens desiring guns for hunting and target practice or for protection of home or business. The criminals have not been bothered within their operating framework. Criminals have no respect for a law that requires gun registration; do not register their weapons, and have little concern about any consequences.

In fact, relative to some classes of weapons, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that an owner of an illegal weapon, as defined in the provisions of the Federal Firearms Act, cannot be made to register it on the grounds that doing so would

be self-incrimination! This is another example of how some gun laws affect only the law-abiding citizen, without placing desired restrictions on the non-complying criminal.

Florida residents are affected by gun laws on several levels. First are the Federal gun laws that embrace certain classes of weapons and their legal possession. Next comes the state framework of gun laws, as covered in Section 790 (Weapons) of the Florida Statutes. Third in rank are local county laws and city ordinances controlling local purchase, possession and use of firearms within specific areas and on named occasions. Finally, there are special state laws, set forth in another Section of the Florida Statutes, that apply to hunting, with specific enforcement by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's wildlife officers on duty statewide.

Readers are urged to visit the nearest law library or public library and read Section 790 of the Florida Statutes, applying to both lawful and restricted uses of weapons of all types. The entire Section's codified laws, now some 25 in number, can be read in minutes.

To date, these state laws have been adequate for carrying out sensible control of firearms in Florida. However, there are persons and groups on the Florida scene who would radically alter, or add to, Florida Statutes' Section 790, and even outlaw licensed hunting if they could bring about the passage of such legislation.

The Florida Sportsmen's Association has been alert to such efforts and has continually called public attention to proposed gun legislation in good or bad form. The Association was instrumental in getting Florida Law 790.25 in the law books. The law defines and defends lawful use of firearms by responsible citizens. It is one law under Section 790 (Weapons), Florida Statutes, that you should definitely read—and very carefully.

If you wish a personal copy, Jones' Equipment Company, 2017 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Florida 33020, will mail you one. The firm has had Florida Law 790.25 reprinted for the information of sportsmen, as a public service.

A few timid souls have even asked me if they should take legitimately owned handguns and long guns to the nearest police station and turn them in as no longer wanted weapons. They cite news-

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)

paper and TV sensationalized reports of cases where other individuals have done so.

Let's turn the light of investigative truth on three such publicised incidents:

A Florida woman turned in a revolver to her local police station with the declaration that she no longer wanted to have anything to do with guns. Local area newspapers made a human interest story out of it. But the newspapers failed to say that the revolver originally belonged to the woman's dead husband and had remained untouched in a bureau drawer for two years since his death. Not only did the widow lack basic knowledge of how to usefully and safely handle the revolver, but she was even timid about opening the drawer depository in order to get some other stored article. This woman did not make any personal sacrifice; she simply gave up something that was of no value to her, anyway.

In another case, the newspapers played up the incident of a man who turned in his hunting rifle with declaration that he was through with guns and hunting. Investigation disclosed that the man was 81 years old and had not hunted or been able to use his hunting rifle since age 68! Further, he had no kin to bequeath the rifle on his passing. In essence, this man was not giving up anything that he had not already given up years ago.

In a third instance, newspapers all over the nation carried a story about how an internationally famous author (by reason of his published book on the assassination of the late President Kennedy) had voluntarily delivered to police a personally owned .45 Colt semi-automatic pistol which he had carried in war years. Consider that the author had much to gain publicity-wise by publicly declaring his wish to be rid of the weapon. (The news story did not state whether or not he owned and kept other handguns. Having once carried a sidearm in combat, you can bet he knows the value of such as a protective weapon and would readily find a replacement if need should ever arise.)

There is a parallel line of thought that should be explored.

Communism now dominates one-third of the world's human population and is steadily extending its boundaries. For many years, the basic theme has been to first create strife, then take over and control—including control of firearms.

It is not illogical to conclude that such eventual objectives are set for this country; surely, the growing civil strife and the anti-gun demands do not originate with American-born descendants of our colonial ancestors. There is much evidence of organized, directed foreign effort, with plenty of money to underwrite sponsored movements in this country. The Communists are strong for disarming the American citizenship, through restrictive forms of gun control, particularly licensing and gun registration.

Just before the assassination of the late President Kennedy, there was great agitation in the Los Angeles area for a strict gun registration measure.

Strongest advocates included two individuals who loudly hollered for gun controls so strict that the average citizen-sportsman would find it discouraging to continue to keep a firearm for home defense or for hunting or target shooting. The two leading anti-gun personalities made hue and cry so similar to known Communist propaganda that a committee of the pro-gun forces conducted a little background investigation. Both of the persons yelling for gun registration were found to be members of the Communist Party, one a high official of California area assignment!

Theory is that proposed registration of all firearms will make it practically impossible for a professional criminal or degenerate to own or possess a firearm. Hogwash! The handgun used to assassinate Senator Robert Kennedy was registered, but not in the name of the alleged assassin. Registration of the handgun in accordance with California law did not prevent it from being surreptitiously acquired and later misused by Senator Kennedy's murderer.

As many other authenticated instances substantiate, when a professional criminal or a radical feels he needs a firearm to bolster his courage or criminal plans he can invariably obtain one without the trouble of first complying with the red tape of legitimate acquisition that entwines the honest citizen. Simply, he finds it more convenient to steal it from a known source for his nefarious plans.

Guns have been boldly stolen from government arsenals, sporting goods stores, distributor warehouses; criminals have even entered police stations and successfully stolen needed weapons.

Gun registration can no more restrict gun thefts and misuse than automobile registration has failed to prevent cars from being stolen and used in crime. Every year thousands of stolen cars disappear completely, without ultimate knowledge of their fate.

The same would be substantially true of many registered firearms should proposed national or state gun registration become fact. Many guns would be stolen. Others would be lost in fires, boat sinkings and other human mishaps, without ever being reported to authorities.

Meanwhile, complicated paper records would continue to jam bureaucratic file drawers the country over. Within a year of commencement of any imposed national or state gun registration the existing records would be replete with inaccuracies.

Merely in the matter of making original records, confusion would occur. In numerous instances of human error, firearm serial numbers would be incorrectly copied by recording clerks; descriptions would be incorrectly listed; names and initials of

owners would be misspelled or transposed; subsequent new gun purchases and registrations could conceivably be mistakenly entered on someone else's card of similar name. Some original registrants would die and heirs would forget about changing the registration status of inherited weapons. Also, people are constantly moving, and few ever notify all their friends, and especially governmental agencies, of changes of address.

In addition to futility and inconvenience, gun registration can be expensive to the law abiding registrant. Where gun registration is already in effect, the minimum charge is one dollar, plus a dollar for each additional weapon registered—per year. In New York City the fee to register a handgun is \$20—without any assurance that the applied for permit will be issued at some future date! Even at one dollar per weapon, gun registration would be an added annual financial burden on the average American household, for most families own several guns, some of them as old as the owning family itself.

No matter how you view gun registration, it is illogical of successful application—and conceivably unconstitutional, as some future date court test case may eventually establish.

Advocates of gun registration in this country call attention to its seemingly workable success in England and Japan. But the inhabitants of England and Japan do not go in for large scale hunting and target shooting like Americans; hunting and target shooting inclinations of the English and Japanese people are quite different.

Nothing is ever said about Switzerland, a country that not only encourages sporting use of firearms, but goes to governmental lengths to see that every able bodied male citizen knows how to handle firearms safely and expertly. For centuries, the Swiss Constitution has required that every mature male be issued a training weapon. This gun is kept in the recipient's home.

The Swiss are among the world's best competitive marksmen. Significantly, Switzerland is not a country that the Communists or other foreign factions openly try to dominate!

Americans are much like the Swiss, in that love for legitimately used firearms is a birthright responsible citizens cherish and wish to keep.

As already pointed out, any proposed gun registration cannot prevent irresponsible persons or criminals from getting and misusing firearms. (If you have any doubts, examine the rising crime statistics of New York City and Chicago, where firearms registration is already in full force.) Therefore, more directly, firearms control laws should be aimed at *misuse*, rather than attempted registration, of firearms. If a gun is used in committing a crime, then the penalty, as many law-abiding gun owners feel, should be more severe than if a deadly weapon were not used in support of the committed crime.

At the moment, we already have some 20,000 gun laws in this country, many of which cover current needs quite adequately, if *properly enforced*.

Unfortunately, no gun law—no matter how strong its wording or intent—can prevent assassinations, as study of history will reflect. Predictably, we will surely have other national incidents to shock our sensibilities and righteous feelings. Laws alone cannot keep lethal weapons out of wrong hands.

Whenever there is a publicised incident of misuse of a firearm by criminal or radical, public indignation and emotional reaction tend to urge lawmakers to further action. Law-abiding gun owners nationwide suffer unjustly, especially when impractical and illogical legislation is passed under the pressure of emotional reactions.

As I view the scope of legal gun ownership, there is no logical need for the average sportsman, unless he is a museum piece collector, to purchase and possess such war weapons as anti-tank guns, machine guns, bazookas, grenades and grenade launchers and similar armament. No sportsman can conscientiously oppose any enforceable law that will curtail their acquisition and possible misuse.

Those items needed for museums or desired for private historical collections can be authorized by special permit of record.

There is no true need for licensing or registering the sporting types of firearms customarily possessed and used for lawful hunting and for target shooting sport. Such proposed laws will not prevent armed crime or thefts and misuse of firearms by criminals and deranged persons.

As a citizen-voter you are entitled to expression of personal viewpoint to your lawmakers. If you own a gun for sport and want to continue to enjoy unrestricted privilege of use for sport—safely and sensibly—then, say so, briefly and with the dignity of the law-abiding class of citizen you represent.

Contrary to general belief, present-day legislators do read and study mailings from individual constituents.

Let the lawmakers know you don't like being the scapegoat for every publicized violent act by some criminal, radical or otherwise irresponsible person.

Request that your American birthright to own and enjoy firearms be legally protected and that any proposed firearms control laws be aimed at *misuse*, through imposed severe penalties, rather than impractical licensing or registration of all firearms.

If every sportsman owning a gun and using it solely for lawful hunting or pleasurable target shooting, will write each of his district Congressmen and State Legislators, protesting impractical gun legislation, and gun registration particularly, the anti-gun crowd will be tumbled by a tidal backwash of their own making. Write; time is now the essence. ●

ONE HUNDRED sixteen thousand striped bass were released in Northwest Florida's Choctawhatchee Bay in June by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, according to their Regional Information Office, Atlanta.

Representatives of the Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Florida Board of Conservation and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, studied the area prior to releasing the fish, which are thought to have at least an even chance of establishing a resident population of stripers in the bay.

The two- to three-inch fingerlings were liberated in three widely separate areas, chosen because of good habitat and food supplies. They were obtained as day-old fry from the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department and raised to stocking size at U. S. fish hatcheries located at Welaka, Florida; Marion, Alabama and Meridian, Mississippi. The fish were transported to Choctawhatchee Bay by tank truck.

Congressman Robert L. Sikes of Crestview, who is vitally interested in the possibility of adding the striped bass to the list of sport fish available in northwest Florida bays and estuaries, was among those present as the final shipment of fish were placed in the water June 23.

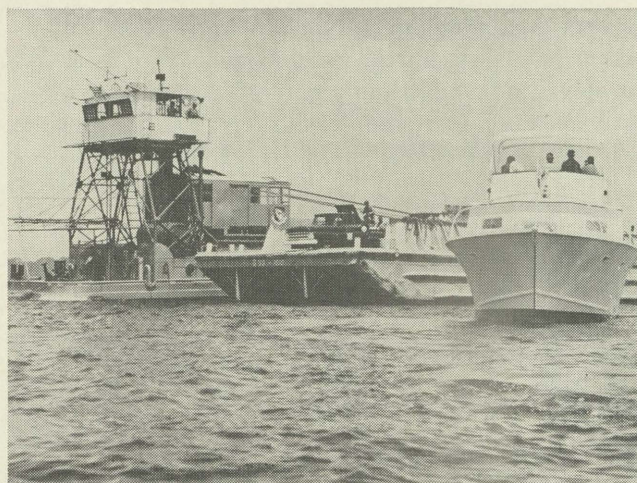
Nearby Eglin Air Force Base assisted with two of the releases by furnishing a barge which took the hatchery truck aboard, and from which the delicate fingerlings were released directly from the holding tanks.

Notable successes have been recorded with stocking striped bass in "new waters"—inland and coastal—in the nation through the years. But such efforts must still be termed experimental, say biologists.

THE COMMISSION'S River Basin Study biologists, Larry Shanks and Bill Cole, Ft. Lauderdale, report that since the statewide moratorium on the sale of state-owned lands and dredging and filling of Florida's estuarine areas, the dredge and fill business has slowed considerably—even in inland lakes—at least for a while.

In a recent month they received only two new applications for dredge and fill permits and corresponded on just two others, which were illegal, after-the-fact applications.

But the moratorium did not mean the study team had most of the month off to go fishing. The biologists checked out and processed 22 permits for the Corps of Engineers and two for the Coast Guard (for bridge construction); they worked on reports for the Intracoastal Waterway, West Coast, St. Petersburg Harbor, Manatee Harbor and Lee County (on beach erosion); they met with the Federal



A shipment of striped bass fingerlings finds a new home in west Florida's Choctawhatchee Bay. Hatchery truck is shown aboard the Eglin AFB barge as the official party stands by.

Water Pollution Control Administration, in Athens, Ga., to talk about Lake Apopka, with the State Board of Health and the Southwest Water Management District, in Jacksonville, to discuss problems in Lake Hancock, with the Isaak Walton League, also in Jacksonville, to speak on conservation problems along the St. Johns River, with the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (the Cabinet), the State Road Department and the Inter-agency committee on submerged bottom lands, all in Tallahassee; and they took a field trip into the Everglades and Conservation Areas with the Dade County Airport Authority.

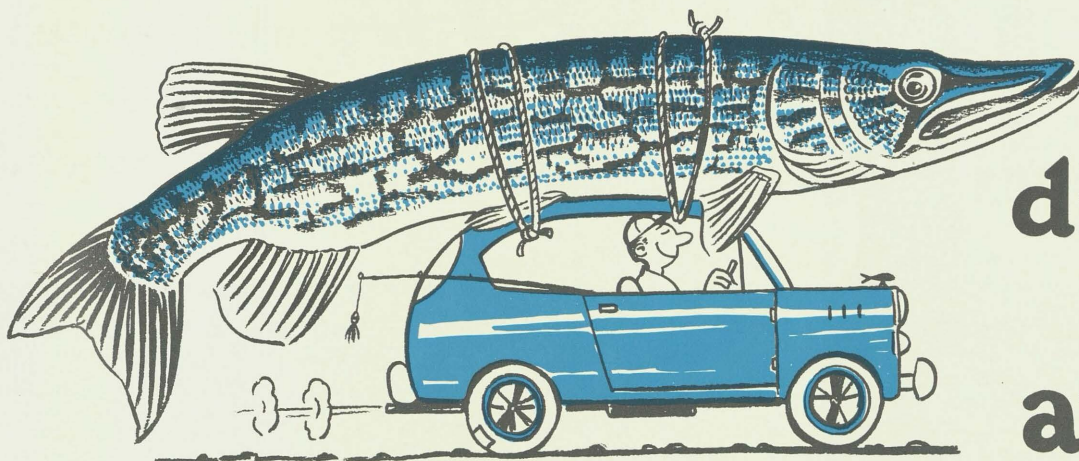
FISHERY BIOLOGIST Forrest Ware, Lakeland, reports, "The experimental marking technique using compressed air and fluorescent pigment has proven successful for warm water fish. Bass and bluegill marked nine months ago and held in ponds exhibited 95% and 96% mark retention, respectively."

"Channel catfish, during an eight month period, retained 100% of their marks," said Ware, who also pointed out that a most desirable feature of this method of marking fish for study purposes is *speed*. A two man team working with fingerling size fish can mark 1,500 to 2,000 per hour, a far superior rate than could ever be obtained by applying a tag to each fish.

Ware is describing the new marking method in detail in a forthcoming report.

THE NEWLY-BUILT Suwannee Lake, east of Live Oak in the Northeast Region, has problems, according to biologists Doug Fletcher and Tom Vaughn. Checking the less-than-half-full lake with seines recently, they found a number of fliers and chubsuckers but only one shellcracker and no bluegill. There were numbers of small bass of varying lengths, indicating breeding size adults are there along with hatchery-produced bass fingerlings stocked recently. Question: What will they eat? ●

For that BIG ONE that



didn't get away

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE _____ Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip No. _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

Signature of Applicant _____

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



Brown Pelican Family

Photo By Lovett Williams

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